

Sustainable Communities Strategy: Future Generation

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: Councillor E Woodburn
LEAD OFFICER: Liam Murphy
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Summary and Recommendation: The report seeks the Council's agreement to the draft West Cumbria Sustainable Communities Strategy, "Future Generation"

It is recommended that the West Cumbrian Councils:

- 1) adopt the revised joint Strategy; and
- 2) delegate authority to the Leaders to agree any minor drafting changes which may become necessary between today's meeting and printing of the Strategy

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Sustainable Community Strategies are a development of the "Community Strategies" introduced by the Local Government Act 2000. A draft Strategy for Sustainable Communities in West Cumbria has been prepared by the Councils' joint Strategic Co-ordination Unit, through partnership arrangements involving private sector, third sector, other public sector, and community representatives, to replace the previous Community Strategy for West Cumbria adopted jointly by Allerdale Borough Council, Copeland Borough Council, and Cumbria County Council, in 2003.

2. ARGUMENT

2.1 "Future Generation – A Strategy for Sustainable Communities in West Cumbria" has been previously circulated. It is intended to replace "West Cumbria Live", the previous web-based Community Strategy adopted in 2003.

2.2 The change to a "Sustainable Community Strategy" reflects a shift in emphasis to long-term sustainable outcomes for communities, rather than the service outputs of public bodies, although they remain important in delivering the Strategy. That is why the Strategy is written around the nationally-defined components of a Sustainable Community – which actually align remarkably well with the themes adopted in West Cumbria since the "New Vision" strategy of 2000.

2.3 Because it is a Strategy for the long-term, it does not contain a list of actions, budgets, programmes and targets. It is a statement of the kind of place we might want to see West Cumbria become, and our style or approach to getting there. So it does not repeat the detail contained in thematic strategies like the West Cumbria Masterplan or the Local Transport Plan, or geographic strategies like the North East Copeland Plan or the Gilcrux Parish Plan. It does provide a linking context, and sets the overall tone.

2.4 The Strategy is meant to guide the adoption of programmes, targets, budgets, and so on, in the short term Action Plans which are the steps we take to get us nearer our ambition – principally the Strategy’s Implementation Plan, now in preparation, which should be available later in the year. The Implementation Plan will in turn inform the discussion with Government about which actions should be the subject of specific public service performance improvement targets in the Local Area Agreement (which replaces the “Best Value” regime from 2008). It will also identify the key actions to be included in Council Plans and Corporate Improvement Plans. If adopted, the Strategy will be launched at the West Cumbria Community Forum, to be held this year in Whitehaven Civic Hall on 2 November.

3. OPTIONS TO BE CONSIDERED

3.1 Not agree the Sustainable Communities Strategy.

3.2 Agree the Sustainable Communities Strategy.

4. CONCLUSIONS

4.1 Local authorities are required to develop and agree a community strategy, now a Sustainable Community Strategy. The particular circumstances of West Cumbria have made a community strategy shared with Allerdale more logical and coherent, so Copeland Borough Council is recommended to adopt Option 2, and continue working with Allerdale Borough Council and Cumbria County Council by agreeing the draft Sustainable Communities Strategy- “Future Generation”.

5. FINANCIAL AND HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS (INCLUDING SOURCES OF FINANCE)

5.1 There are no additional financial or human resources required as a result of this report.

6. PROJECT AND RISK MANAGEMENT

6.1 The Sustainable Communities Strategy will require a detailed implementation plan to be developed. This will contain a number of projects, which will be subject to project management discipline.

6.2 Managing risks arising from the Sustainable Communities Strategy will be included in the Council's Strategic Risk Register.

7. IMPACT ON CORPORATE PLAN

7.1 Adoption and delivery of the Sustainable Communities Strategy is an objective in the five year Corporate Plan. Achieving the benefits arising from the Sustainable Communities Strategy will support the Council in achieving a number of its objectives.

List of Appendices : none

List of Background Documents: Sustainable Communities Strategy – Future Generation –already circulated

List of Consultees: Attached at Appendix 3 of the Sustainable Communities Strategy

CHECKLIST FOR DEALING WITH KEY ISSUES

Please confirm against the issue if the key issues below have been addressed . This can be by either a short narrative or quoting the paragraph number in the report in which it has been covered.

Impact on Crime and Disorder	The Sustainable Communities Strategy creates a framework for tackling a wide range of social, environmental and economic issues in West Cumbria
Impact on Sustainability	The Sustainable Communities Strategy creates a framework for tackling a wide range of social, environmental and economic issues in West Cumbria
Impact on Rural Proofing	The Sustainable Communities Strategy creates a framework for tackling a wide range of social, environmental and economic issues in West Cumbria
Health and Safety Implications	Not applicable
Project and Risk Management	See paragraph 6
Impact on Equality and Diversity Issues	The Sustainable Communities Strategy creates a framework for tackling a wide range of social, environmental and economic issues in West Cumbria

Children and Young Persons Implications	The Sustainable Communities Strategy creates a framework for tackling a wide range of social, environmental and economic issues in West Cumbria
Human Rights Act Implications	The Sustainable Communities Strategy creates a framework for tackling a wide range of social, environmental and economic issues in West Cumbria