

## Cheltenham Borough Council

### Social and Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee - 9th January 2008

#### Our Future, Our Choice, Cheltenham's Sustainable Community Strategy

#### Report of the Corporate Policy Manager

#### 1. Executive Summary and recommendation

##### 1.1 The issue

**1.1.1** Cheltenham's sustainable community strategy was launched on 29th October 2007. The strategy, which is owned by Cheltenham Strategic Partnership, sets out a long-term, sustainable vision for Cheltenham backed up by cross-cutting principles and ambitions. This long term framework will influence all other plans and strategies produced by the CSP's partner organisations such as the borough council, county council, police, health and care services and our partners in the voluntary and community sector.

**1.1.2** When the sustainable community strategy came to full council for approval on 8 October 2007, an amendment was added that a bi-annual report be sent to all Council members and that the report be used by the appropriate Overview and Scrutiny Committees to review the progress and outcomes of the Strategy.

**1.1.3** Whilst the bi-annual report will not be prepared until May/June 2008, this introductory report will provide a broad overview of the strategy in order that the committee can identify the elements which will be of most interest in future reviews.

##### 1.2 I therefore recommend that:

**1.2.1 The committee identify which elements of the sustainable community strategy will be of most interest to it.**

##### 1.3 Summary of implications

**1.3.1** Financial   None identified as a result of this report

**1.3.2** Legal   None identified as a result of this report

**1.3.3** Human Resources                                       None identified as a result of this report

## 1.4 Implications on corporate and community plan priorities

1.4.1 The sustainable community strategy provides the framework for the production of the council's business plan.

## 1.5 Statement on Risk

1.5.1 No risks associated with this report.

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## 2. Introduction

2.1 Cheltenham's sustainable community strategy has been prepared by Cheltenham Strategic Partnership (CSP) which brings together core partners, thematic partnerships, community and voluntary sectors. The aims of the CSP are

- To be the partnership of partnerships for Cheltenham, providing strategic co-ordination, ensuring linkages with other plans and bodies established at the regional, sub-regional and local level and agreeing a community strategy that sets the vision and priorities for the area and gaining consensus about the way forward.
- To develop and drive the effective delivery of the community strategy action plan through effective performance management and holding delivery partners and partnerships to account.

2.1.1 The sustainable community strategy sets out a long-term, sustainable vision for Cheltenham backed up by cross-cutting principles and ambitions. The vision is:

**We want Cheltenham to deliver a sustainable quality of life, where people, families, their communities and businesses thrive; and in a way which cherishes our cultural and natural heritage, reduces our impact on climate change and does not compromise the quality of life of present and future generations.**

2.1.2 By a sustainable quality of life we mean a place where:

- We have a strong, healthy and just society, and
- We all live within the environmental limits of our planet.

2.1.3 We will achieve this by:

- Building a strong, stable and sustainable economy;
- Promoting good citizenship; and
- Investing in sustainable infrastructure.

2.1.4 Achieving a sustainable quality of life is an overarching theme of the community strategy and is one that all partners will be working towards. The CSP will take action locally to ensure that we build a stronger society in Cheltenham without increasing our ecological footprint, aiming to be a carbon-neutral borough. To deliver the vision, CSP has identified three principles that partners will use to underpin their policy development and decision-making processes. The CSP will be using an agreed assessment process to ensure that policies and projects align with these principles.

- The principle of community engagement and participation
- The principle of tackling inequalities and promoting cohesion, and;
- The principle of tackling climate change

**2.1.5** Having consulted widely with the community, the CSP has identified the following ambitions where, over the next twenty years, it will take concerted and coordinated action through partnership working and the local development framework to turn the vision into a reality:

- Promoting community safety
- Promoting sustainable living
- Promoting a strong and sustainable economy
- Building healthy communities and supporting older people
- Building stronger communities and supporting housing choice
- A focus on children and young people
- Investing in environmental quality
- Investing in travel and transport
- Investing in arts and culture

**2.1.6** A summary of the community strategy action plan with progress to date is attached to this report as appendix A.

**2.1.7** There is well-established relationship between the sustainable community strategy and the emerging local development framework (LDF). The LDF will provide a spatial vision which will guide development proposals to meet the needs of Cheltenham, providing a vehicle to deliver the vision and ambitions of the community strategy in partnership with service providers. Preparation of the LDF will be informed by the views of the CSP and its respective partnership groups to ensure that the cross-cutting agenda of the community strategy is embodied within LDF policies and proposals.

### **3. CSP structures**

**3.1.1** The CSP has agreed on a new structure to ensure that it is in the best possible position to deliver the new community strategy and add value to existing work to enable better and smarter working within and between organisations. The CSP will be restructured around a two-tier model.

**3.1.2** Cheltenham Strategic Partnership is now a broad partnership bringing together all operational and strategic partnerships, core partners, community and voluntary sectors involved in the delivery of the community strategy. This group will meet bi-annually to agree the community strategy and annual action plan and to take a bi-annual report from the management group.

**3.1.3** A smaller more focused management group comprising core partners and representatives of the six delivery partnerships will meet every two months to hold the

six delivery partnerships to account, ensure effective performance management of the action plan and ensure resources are in place to enable successful delivery of the community strategy. The core partners are:

- Gloucestershire County Council (nominated county councillor and director)
- Cheltenham Borough Council (leader and Chief Executive)
- Gloucestershire Police (senior officer)
- Gloucestershire PCT (senior officer)
- Learning and Skills Council (senior officer)
- Cheltenham Voluntary and Community Action

**3.1.4** The following are the delivery partnerships for the community strategy which directly link to the ambitions of this community strategy:

- Stronger Communities Partnership
- Children and Young People's Partnership
- Cheltenham Community Safety Partnership
- Low Carbon Partnership
- Health and Wellbeing Partnership
- Strategic Economic Partnership

**3.1.5** The CSP is pleased that the six partnerships align closely to the partnership arrangements for the county and that there is an emerging relationship between our district partnership and its county counterpart.

**3.1.6** The new-look CSP held its first meeting on Thursday 22 November 2007 and held a facilitated workshop on corporate governance issues on Thursday 13 December 2007.

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<b>Background Papers</b>	Council - 8th October 2007, Cheltenham's sustainable community strategy, Report of the Leader of the Council
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<b>Accountability</b>	Leader of the Council
<b>Scrutiny Function</b>	Economy and Business Improvement Overview and Scrutiny Committee