



## OFFICER REPORT TO LOCAL COMMITTEE (REIGATE AND BANSTEAD)

### **Surrey Strategic Partnership: Community Planning Update**

**22 September 2008**

#### **KEY ISSUE**

This report provides an update on the Surrey Strategic Partnership's (SSP) development of the community strategy and processes to manage delivery, including Local Area Agreement (LAA) and its refresh early in 2009.

#### **SUMMARY**

Surrey's first Community Strategy 2004-07 has delivered tangible improvements in quality of life for Surrey's citizens:

- More affordable housing for key workers
- Better life chances for children
- More schoolchildren taking regular physical exercise
- More qualified staff and improved standards in the care sector
- Over 12000 more residents involved in regular volunteering
- Higher levels of benefit take up in target groups of older people
- More older people enabled to live independent lives
- Reduced pressures on the health service
- Safer communities with fewer road casualties
- A more effective response to domestic abuse
- Increased levels of waste recycling

The SSP has strengthened its governance and agreed an interim Sustainable Community Strategy for the county to provide context for negotiating the Local Area Agreement 2008-11 with government. This sets out a balanced approach to realising the 2020 vision that builds on the successes of the previous community strategy:

**Sustain Success**

- Encourage enterprise and innovation to drive sustainable economic growth
- Raise skills at all levels to improve global competitiveness of Surrey's Businesses
- Preserving Surrey's distinctive communities and the beauty and richness of its built and natural heritage, while providing levels of infrastructure to support economic prosperity and sustainable communities.
- Improve public confidence regarding crime and antisocial behaviour

**Share Success**

- Narrow the gap in life chances in particular addressing inequalities in health, education and employment outcomes
- Improve safeguarding of vulnerable children and adults
- Increase the availability of affordable homes

**Promote Independence**

- Help people to make lifestyle choices that are healthy and sustainable
- Support more vulnerable people to live in their own homes and to exercise greater choice and control over their health and support arrangements
- Encourage and facilitate active citizenship to strengthen communities

Further developments over the coming year include:

- Thematic partnerships are developing delivery plans with partners and Local Strategic Partnerships. Partners business / service planning should incorporate their commitments to these. LAA targets are agreed at county level, but local targets may be established through delivery planning to reflect local priorities
- Performance will be collated by the SSP business support unit and reported to the Thematic partnerships and the SSP Leadership Group
- Surrey's Sustainable Community Strategy will be developed through 2008 and early 2009 to make it more succinct and focussed, but also elaborating how the strategy relates to localities across the county and defining milestones on the journey to 2020
- Refresh of the Local Area Agreement

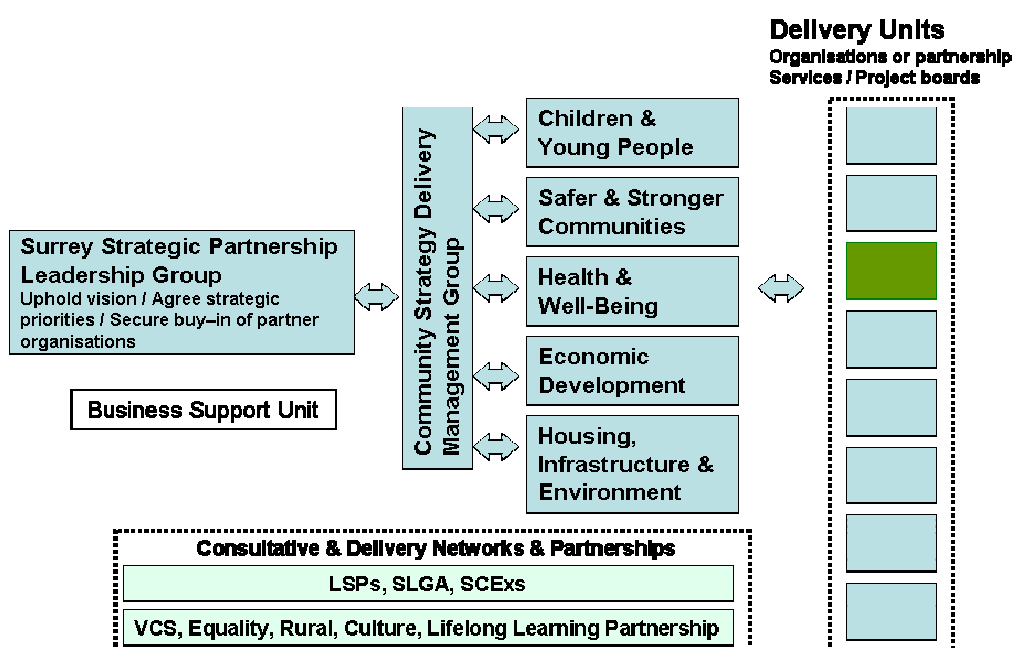
**OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS**

**The Local Committee (Reigate and Banstead) is asked to:**

- (i) Note the ongoing development of the Surrey's Sustainable Community Strategy and the opportunities to shape it and make a contribution.

## 1 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Last year, the Surrey Strategic Partnership (SSP) set up a cross partner Review Group, in response to the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, to undertake a comprehensive appraisal of the Partnership structure and Surrey's priorities for a new Community Strategy and Local Area Agreement 2008-11.
- 1.2 The Review Group used a series of meetings and independently facilitated workshops with partner organisations over the summer to develop proposals, which were communicated to the wider partnership in October and debated at the annual SSP conference in November. All District and Borough leaders Chief Executives and Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) chairs were invited to participate.



- 1.3 The SSP agreed to implement a stronger governance structure subject to a review after twelve to eighteen months. The changes include:
- A Leadership Group comprising the elected leaders or chairmen of Surrey's statutory agencies and equivalent representatives from business and the voluntary community and faith sectors.
  - A small Delivery Management Group of senior officers from the Thematic Partnerships, drawn from a range of partners including District and Borough Councils, Surrey Police, Surrey Primary Care Trust, Surrey County Council and the business sector will meet regularly to oversee delivery and manage cross cutting issues.
  - Alignment of existing strategic thematic partnerships and the formation of new ones for Health and Well-being and Housing, Environment and Infrastructure.

- The establishment of a small Business Support Unit to facilitate operation of the leadership group and coordinate partnership business such as performance management and communications.
- 1.4 The interim sustainable community strategy and the Local Area Agreement 2008-11 were drafted by the thematic partnerships under the direction of the Delivery Management Group and the meeting of the Leadership Group 26 March agreed the Local Area Agreement. The County Council approved the Local Area Agreement on behalf of the SSP on 6 May and Government signed it off by on 30 June 2008.
  - 1.5 The Interim Sustainable Community Strategy and Local Area Agreement 2008-11 are published on the Community Planning website: [www.surreycc.gov.uk/communityplanning](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/communityplanning).
  - 1.6 The Local Area Agreement 2008-11 negotiated with Government comprises a balanced package of 28 designated indicators (within the government performance management and reward framework) targets across the 5 themes. It also incorporates 16 statutory DCSF Early Years and Education targets and 6 other locally agreed indicators that are outside the reward framework.
  - 1.7 Targets for 19 of the 28 designated indicators have been agreed with the remainder needing to be looked at as part of the first refresh in the light of available data. There are 8 'placeholders' where further negotiations will be needed during the year to confirm baseline and agree targets, including NI 4, 5, and 21 that are dependant on the Place Survey. In addition the NI 117 "Not in Education Employment or Training" (NEET) indicator has been included with a commitment to agree a target at refresh based on further analysis of local economy and LSP contribution.
  - 1.8 Communities and Local Government publish a national overview of LAAs which can be used to compare Surrey's choice of targets with other areas: [www.localpriorities.communities.gov.uk](http://www.localpriorities.communities.gov.uk)

## **2 ANALYSIS**

### **Delivery and Performance Management**

- 2.1 Partners are currently putting together delivery plans to meet the targets set out in the LAA. These delivery plans will capture the key contributions of individual organisations and highlight where working in partnership is adding value. The plans will be considered at the thematic partnership boards to provide an opportunity for partners to take an overview of where they can work better together to improve service delivery and outcomes.
- 2.2 Progress against the targets and the delivery plans will be collated and monitored by the Business Support Unit and reported to the thematic partnerships on a quarterly basis, although performance data is not available quarterly for all indicators. The Leadership Group will receive quarterly updates on progress and performance.

- 2.3 Currently all LAA targets are countywide. Separate targets have not been set for districts and boroughs. For some indicators data is available at district/ borough level and beyond. Thematic partnerships may choose to focus their delivery planning and performance management more precisely and set targets for individual indicators at a borough/ district level.
- 2.4 All statutory partners have a duty to have regard to the targets agreed within the LAA. Theme workshops based around the Community Strategy priorities have been incorporated into this year's process for developing Surrey County Council's corporate plan so there is a stronger mechanism for ensuring service plans are aligned with the Community Strategy. It is expected that partners will develop similar mechanisms to embed delivery within their business plans.
- 2.5 The **Local Area Agreement 2008-11** will be "refreshed" early in 2009. This will include:
- Negotiating outstanding "Placeholder" targets where there was a need to establish baselines and trajectories. Three of these will be based on the new Place Survey.
  - Agreeing whether additional targets are required or whether some should be removed in light of current circumstances. The SSP and Government will monitor performance across the 198 national indicators to inform this debate.
  - Confirming all baselines and targets as a basis for reward grant based on average achievement of targets at the end of the LAA period.
- 2.6 The **Surrey Sustainable Community Strategy** will be developed through 2008 and early 2009 to make it more succinct and focussed, but also elaborating how the strategy relates to localities across the county and defining milestones on the journey to 2020.
- 2.7 The workshop of the Leadership Group 18 June developed some creative ideas for partnership working:
- Bringing together Surrey wide issues whilst recognising local differences
    - e.g Integrating Community Strategies and Local Development Frameworks (LDFs)
  - Working better together
    - e.g. Joint neighbourhood teams #
  - Preparing for social change
  - Encouraging personal and community responsibility #
  - Dealing with inequalities
    - e.g. Multi-agency support for families #

The Delivery Management Group (DMG) is developing immediate proposals for the items marked #

- 2.8 Thematic partnerships have been commissioned through the Delivery Management Group to define a small number of critical issues and milestones to define precisely what will be different and how it will be measured on the journey towards 2020.
- 2.9 Next steps in the process will include:
- 22 August Surrey Planning Officers workshop to review Local Development Frameworks and Core Strategies
  - 3 October workshop with Thematic Partnerships and Surrey Directors to agree local issues and priorities
  - Partner consultation November – January aligned with corporate planning cycle. To be debated at the annual SSP Conference 27 November.
  - Design and publication in Spring 2009

### **3 CONSULTATIONS**

- 3.1 The priorities for Surrey were established through partners bringing their needs analysis, performance analysis and consultation views to the SSP debate. The process engaged a broad range of partners from across the public, private and voluntary, community & faith sectors. The emerging priorities were tested with the public through the biennial community survey commissioned by Surrey County Council, which is constructed to ensure representation across the equality groups. Key public priorities such as affordable housing and safeguarding children are reflected in the Sustainable Community Strategy and the Local Area Agreement 208-11
- 3.2 In addition to the top level process, the contributing thematic partnership and organisations draw upon a much broader base of engagement with relevant stakeholder groups such as children and young people and parent carers through the Children and Young People Partnership.
- 3.3 Partners were consulted on the Interim Sustainable Community Strategy through October 07 to January 08. Partners will be consulted on the revised strategy this autumn.

### **4 FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 Partnership working is essential to finding ways to deliver improved services in a more cost effective way. The Community Strategy priorities and LAA 2008-11 targets seeks to align partners' mainstream core business and resources to realise the 2020 vision.
- 4.2 There is no new money to fund the LAA improvement programme. LAA Indicators have therefore been selected from Community Strategy priorities where partners have indicated that they are prepared to commit and have capacity to deliver improvements within three years.

- 4.3 In February 2008 the Government announced £340m payable in 2011-12 and 2012-13 to fund a new LAA reward scheme – It is expected that the distribution will be broadly related to the distribution of local authority funding. This gives a maximum reward ‘pot’ for Surrey of approximately £3.8M – this figure will be confirmed in the autumn. The Government is consulting on its framework for rewarding achievement LAA targets. The approach to managing this will need to be agreed with partners through the Surrey Strategic Partnership.

## **5 EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 Sharing Success and Promoting Independence, along with Sustaining Success provide a balanced set of overarching strategic goals of Surreys Sustainable Community Strategy. Sharing Success seeks to identify critical gaps in outcomes for particular groups of people or localities and provide targeted support to improve quality of life and well-being. Promoting Independence advances an approach to achieving this based on empowerment. There is a range of Sustainable Community Strategy priorities and Local Area Agreement targets aimed at closing the gap in outcomes for people across the county.
- 5.2 The thematic partnerships and their delivery units will undertake Equality Impact Assessments to ensure appropriate stakeholder involvement in developing and delivering solutions to maximise positive impact on equality and to minimise unintended negative impact. They will also need to identify those indicators for which it is most important to measure impact on specific groups of people

## **6 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 There is a significant component of crime and disorder related objectives in the Community Strategy and Local Area Agreement, including preventative work across the Children and Young People agenda and working to develop stronger communities.
- 6.2 The focus for reducing crime and disorder is
- Alcohol
  - Prolific and priority offenders
  - Domestic Violence
  - Prevention of terrorism
  - Antisocial behaviour

## **7 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 7.1 The Surrey Strategic Partnership has strengthened its governance to ensure it is fit to develop and deliver a Sustainable Community Strategy for Surrey and a new style Local Area Agreement directed by the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.

- 7.2 Delivery and performance management are being developed and the Community Strategy and Local Area Agreement will be refined over the coming year.
- 7.3 The Local Committee is asked to note the opportunities to ensure that Reigate and Banstead's needs and priorities shape the ongoing development of Surrey's Sustainable Community Strategy and consider the possibilities to facilitate local delivery.

## 8 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 The Local Committee has an executive function to bring local intelligence to help shape the countywide community strategy and to facilitate local delivery.

## 9 WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

- 9.1 Delivery of the LAA and Community Strategy should be built into partners corporate plans
- 9.2 Performance against the LAA and the 198 indicators where relevant will be reported quarterly to the SSP Leadership Group and its thematic partnerships. Performance reports will be available to partners and the public on the Community Planning website.
- 9.3 The SSP will continue to engage with partners to refine the Sustainable Community Strategy and refresh the LAA.
- 9.4 The commitments of the Community Strategy and Local Area Agreement will be communicated to the public and they will be made aware of how to get involved through the thematic partnerships.

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<b>BACKGROUND PAPERS:</b>	Surrey's Interim Community Strategy Surrey's LAA 2008-11 Community Strategy Progress Report 2008