

Item 10

BOROUGH COMMUNITY PLAN – PROGRESS REPORT SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL'S LOCAL COMMITTEE IN SURREY HEATH

2nd December 2004

KEY ISSUE:

To update the Committee on the progress of the Borough Community Plan which has now reached a crucial stage.

SUMMARY:

The County Council is represented on the Local Strategic Partnership Steering Group that has been developing the Borough Community Plan, which has now reached a crucial stage. Members are asked to note the report, and to instruct local service managers to check that they can deliver on the objectives and action commitments.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Surrey Heath Local Committee:

1. notes the report
2. agrees the way forward as set out in paragraph 10.

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

1. The Borough Community Plan has been in preparation over the last two years and has now reached an advanced stage. The Local Committee Chairman, the Local Director, and the Area Manager Adult Education are all members of the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP).

ANALYSIS AND COMMENTARY

2. The Borough Community Plan has been the subject of extensive public consultation in its development, as part of the process of producing a plan to guide the long term direction of the Borough over the period 2004/14. Community Plans are statutory documents that integrate together the activities of all public authorities serving the area, as well as involving voluntary organisations and the private sector.
3. The significance of the LSP may well increase in the future with the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (OPDM) having announced its intention to channel three funding streams through LSPs by means of Local Area Agreements. This process is being piloted at present (outside Surrey).

4. The Community Plan Consultation Draft (Oct 2003) identified six principal themes around which to create objectives and actions. These were:
 - Health
 - Housing and Employment
 - Transport
 - Safety (including crime & disorder)
 - Community support
 - Education
5. As a result of the consultation process and further reflection, the LSP decided to add two more themes, which are Environment and Leisure, making a total of eight policy areas.
6. Action plans have been developed for each policy area in consultation with service managers and the format – Objectives, benchmark performance, Targets (3,5,10 years), and Actions – has been standardised.
7. The LSP is now at the point when the action plans are being finalised prior to a concluding LSP meeting on 19 January which is likely to finalise the contents of the action plans, and to commission the publication of the Community Plan. The intention is that action groups will then meet to implement key actions in each policy area. In some cases this is straightforward where there is an existing group, such as the Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership, that is in effect a standing working group. Similarly where there is a clear responsibility – Transport - resting with one principal agency, implementation is likely to be effective.
8. County Council officers are likely to be making key inputs to the themes of:
 - Transport
 - Safety
 - Community support
 - Education and Lifelong Learning
9. As noted already there are good prospects for the effective implementation of the Safety (Crime & Disorder) and Transport policy areas; there are difficulties however in making the Education and Community Support policy areas equally robust. In the case of the former the challenge is to make existing County wide targets and policies explicit at the Borough level, and in the case of the latter to devote sufficient staff time resource to this policy area.
10. It is suggested that the way forward might be for the Education and Community Support targets to be simplified to relate more closely to current plans of mainstream services – for example in identifying safe meeting places for young people, promoting volunteering schemes, mapping access to parenting courses (Community Support) and promoting a schools confederation, extended schools, and a vocational training centre (Education).

CONSULTATION

11. The Borough Community Plan has been discussed with County Council service managers on several occasions throughout the plan development.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

12. None at this stage, but in the longer run some pooling of budgets is likely to be essential to the implementation.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS

13. The plan takes account of sustainability indicators.

CRIME & DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

14. The plan will take account of the developing Crime and Disorder Strategy 2005 – 2008.

EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

15. None

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Surrey Heath Local Committee:

1. notes the report
2. agrees the way forward as set out in paragraph 10.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS:	Borough Community Plan action plans. Local Area Agreements: a prospectus - ODPM
Number of Annexes:	None