

Cheshire Community Strategy 2005 Review Process

Introduction

1 The Local Government Act 2000 placed a new statutory duty on principal local authorities to produce community plans or strategies for their area to promote social, environmental and economic well-being, improve quality of life and contribute to sustainable development across the UK.

2 Following the publication of subsequent guidance on Local Strategic Partnerships in 2001 and a clarification of their role in relation to community planning, it was agreed that the LSPs operating at both county and district level should provide a key role in the process of developing, integrating, monitoring and reviewing the delivery of community plans and strategies.

Current Position

3 Since this time, seven community plans and strategies have been produced and are being implemented across the county. The Cheshire Community Strategy was launched by The Cheshire Partnership in February 2002.

4 The Strategy and its seven key themes were based on both factual evidence and the key concerns of local people as identified from the County Council's Quality of Life Survey 2000. At the time of its publication, it was recognised that the Strategy would need to be monitored and reviewed to ensure that local priorities were being promoted and acted upon. It was, therefore, anticipated that the Strategy would be wholly reviewed on a five-yearly basis as the Cheshire Quality of Life Survey is repeated, the next review being due in 2007.

5 However, the concept of community planning and the role of LSPs has evolved considerably since the launch of the Cheshire Community Strategy and the Strategy & Monitoring Group working to the Partnership is keen to bring forward the review in the light of current and future thinking. These developments include:

- The enhanced importance of community plans in the identification of **Local Public Service Agreement** targets and outcomes and the role of LSPs in their development and successful delivery. Since the production of the first Cheshire Community Strategy, the County Council successfully negotiated its first LPSA and it became necessary to integrate these targets within the Strategy after its publication. Following revised guidance on second generation LPSAs produced by the ODPM in December 2003, the Cheshire Partnership have played a central role in the development of the second Agreement which, if successfully negotiated, will come into effect from 1 April 2005.
- **Local Area Agreements (LAAs)**, a new approach to target funding to delivering local solutions to local problems which contribute to national shared priorities are to be piloted in 21 areas of the country from April 2005. LAAs will be based around the following three functional blocks:

- Children and young people
- Safer and stronger communities
- Healthier communities and older people

Expressions of interest for a further forty LAA pilots have been invited and, if successful, LAAs will be rolled out to all areas in the future. As with Local Public Service Agreements, Local Area Agreements will be firmly based on local priorities as identified in local community strategies and plans.

- The Cheshire Population Report 2004 highlights the ***changing face of Cheshire*** and the issues facing all service deliverers over the next 20 years. These include a decrease in the total population, increasing numbers of older people and fewer children. The document was used as the basis for the “Challenging Cheshire” conference hosted by the Cheshire Partnership in October 2004 and has highlighted a need for the Partnership to take a much longer term view in its thinking and subsequent strategy development.
- Many of the district based LSPs are either in the process of fully reviewing their local community plans and strategies or are about to begin this process. Consequently, now would be an opportune time to try to ***strengthen the relationship and linkages*** between the countywide strategy and more geographically focused community plans, including those emerging through market towns initiatives and parish planning.

Suggested Approach

6 On the basis of the above points and the increasing need for a stronger, more focused, integrated and forward looking community strategy which reflects both current and future needs and can more readily be used as the source document for any future LPSA or LAA negotiation, the Strategy & Monitoring Group have agreed to bring forward the full review of the Cheshire Community Strategy. In time, this may necessitate a further development of the current LSP structure to ensure that the Partnership remains ‘fit for purpose’ and is able to meet additional demands being placed upon it.

7 Appendix A to this report details an outline project plan and timetable for the full review of the Cheshire Community Strategy.

The Cheshire Partnership is asked to:

- 1) **note the contents of this report and the Cheshire Community Strategy review process;**
- 2) **support the development and delivery of a revised Cheshire Community Strategy and action plan in line with current and future local priorities and national developments; and**
- 3) **agree to further consideration of the structure of the Cheshire Partnership and its component parts, to ensure continued appropriateness, at a future meeting.**

CHESHIRE COMMUNITY STRATEGY (2005 – 2020) REVIEW AND REVISION

PROJECT PLAN & TIMETABLE

NO.	ACTIVITY	KEY DATE	BY WHOM
1	Mapping of existing community strategy themes and actions against LAA functional blocks and “Challenging Cheshire” conference outcomes	Completed	AA
2	Checking progress and continued relevance of current Cheshire Community Strategy actions and current LPSA targets against revised framework	Underway	AA/ LR / LEAD OFFICERS
3	Quality of Life Survey 2005 questionnaire and methodology agreed	End December 2004	CCC R&I
4	Quality of Life Survey 2005 fieldwork begins	19 January 2005	CCC R&I
5	Presentation and agreement of community strategy review proposals by the Cheshire Partnership	1 March 2005	AA
6	Quality of Life Survey 2005 fieldwork ends	Early March 2005	
7	<p>Consideration and agreement of revised Cheshire Community Strategy actions in response to future drivers, demographic changes and agreed framework by key partners / partnerships, e.g.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Older Peoples Network • Local Care Forums • Cheshire Youth Parliament • Cheshire Children & Young People’s Strategic Partnership • Sustainable Cheshire Forum • Cheshire & Warrington Economic Alliance 	from March 2005	ALL

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cheshire & Warrington Housing Alliance • Cheshire & Warrington Information Consortium • Cheshire Rural Partnership • Cheshire & Warrington Cultural Consortium • District LSPs • District VCS Networks 		
8	Development and agreement of revised Cheshire Community Strategy indicators and SMART outcome targets, including specific geographic targets and linkages to district community plans, market towns action plans and parish plans where appropriate	from March 2005	ALL
9	Initial Quality of Life Survey 2005 results in relation to overall priorities produced	End March 2005	CCC R&I
10	Detailed Quality of Life Survey 2005 results produced	From April 2005	CCC R&I
11	First draft revised Cheshire Community Strategy to Cheshire Partnership	15 June 2005	AA
12	Final draft revised Cheshire Community Strategy to Cheshire Partnership	End August 2005	AA
13	Revised Cheshire Community Strategy agreed	8 September 2005	CP
14	Revised Cheshire Community Strategy launched	?	CP