

# OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

2nd March 2011

## SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY AND ACTION PLANS

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Cllr Carole Gandy, Community Leadership & Partnership
Relevant Head of Service	Hugh Bennett, Director of Policy, Performance and Partnerships
Key Decision	

### 1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is requested to consider the Redditch Partnership Sustainable Community Strategy and its four associated Action Plans.

### 2. RECOMMENDATIONS

**The Committee is asked to RECOMMEND that the Sustainable Community Strategy be endorsed, subject to comments.**

### 3. BACKGROUND

3.1 The Redditch Partnership is a non-statutory, multi-agency partnership, which operates within the Redditch Borough boundary. The Redditch Partnership brings together representatives of the public, private, community and voluntary sectors to deliver initiatives and services in a co-ordinated and effective manner.

3.2 The Redditch Sustainable Community Strategy is the key working document of Redditch Partnership. The Strategy was agreed by the Redditch Partnership Management Board on 17th January 2011 and now requires adoption by all partners.

### 4. KEY ISSUES

4.1 The role of Redditch Borough Council and its LSP partners is to provide a leadership and governing role through identifying and conveying the needs and aspirations of local communities.

4.2 The Sustainable Community Strategy is intended to influence the Strategy and budget plans of all members of Redditch Partnership, in order to embed partnership working within the Borough.

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4.3 The previous Sustainable Community Strategy focussed on the key themes of the Worcestershire Local Area Agreement. With the abolishment of the Local Area Agreement and the recognition by Redditch Partnership Board that the Strategy needed to be more focussed, the refreshed Sustainable Community Strategy has been structured around four new key priorities. These are:

- a) health inequalities;
- b) education attainment;
- c) the economy; and
- d) areas of deprivation.

4.4 These priorities were identified through the 2009 Comprehensive Area Assessment where Worcestershire was given a 'red flag' for differences in the quality of life for people in Redditch compared to the rest of Worcestershire. The priorities were further developed through consultation with residents, which took place at various events in Redditch during 2010.

### **5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Ongoing funding is required to enable the Partnership to become an active delivery mechanism for the Council's community leadership responsibilities and the delivery of the Sustainable Community Strategy.

### **6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

The legislative framework is set out primarily in the Local Government Act 2000 updated by the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. The Local Government Act 2000 introduced a statutory requirement that all local authorities prepare a Sustainable Community Strategy. This should set out local strategic priorities for an area, the basis by which progress towards those priorities can be assessed and engage key local stakeholders in planning and delivery.

### **7. POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 The Sustainable Community Strategy is the overarching plan for the Borough and should influence Redditch Borough Council's and other partner's strategies and plans. The Strategy therefore has an important role in shaping both the Core Strategy and the Council Plan.

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- 7.2 If the Sustainable Community Strategy is endorsed, Redditch Borough Council will commit to working within the framework of Redditch Partnership to deliver shared objectives. Although endorsing the Sustainable Community Strategy does not commit to any specific delivery target or future policy development, endorsement of the Strategy may be cited in future reports recommending policy changes.

### **8. COUNCIL OBJECTIVES**

Enterprising Communities - the Sustainable Community Strategy and the Economic Action Plan provides a structure and a series of interventions to ensure effective action is taken to contribute to this Council priority.

### **9. RISK MANAGEMENT, INCLUDING HEALTH & SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS**

If the Redditch Sustainable Community Strategy is not endorsed, Redditch Partnership will not be able to meet the requirements placed on all Local Strategic Partnerships to produce a Sustainable Community Strategy for their local area.

### **10. CUSTOMER IMPLICATIONS**

None identified

### **11. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

The Sustainable Community Strategy and its Action Plans provide a structure and series of interventions to help address issues of inequalities across the Borough.

### **12. VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS, PROCUREMENT AND ASSET MANAGEMENT**

The Sustainable Community Strategy and its Action Plans encourages partners to work together effectively, drawing on resources and expertise of a wide range of partners, avoiding duplication and therefore providing better value for money for the people of Redditch.

### **13. CLIMATE CHANGE, CARBON IMPLICATIONS AND BIODIVERSITY**

None identified.

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### **14. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS**

None identified.

### **15. GOVERNANCE/PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

The Redditch Partnership Board will oversee the implementation of the Sustainable Community Strategy and will monitor progress of projects contained within the four actions plans at each meeting. Redditch Overview and Scrutiny Committee has also requested to monitor the progress of the Strategy and actions plans at regular intervals.

### **16. COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS INCLUDING SECTION 17 OF CRIME AND DISORDER ACT 1998**

None identified.

### **17. HEALTH INEQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

Health Inequalities is a key priority for this Sustainable Community Strategy. The Health Inequalities Action Plan in particular sets out key interventions designed to address levels of smoking, healthy lifestyles and levels of alcohol consumption in the Borough.

### **18. LESSONS LEARNT**

- 18.1 The previous Sustainable Community Strategy contained approximately 41 priorities. Redditch Partnership Board has acknowledged that there were too many priorities to effectively deliver on. Therefore, with the refreshed version of the Strategy the Partnership has been careful to focus on the most pressing four priority areas with a view to concentrating resources on these four areas for more effective service delivery and stronger outcomes for the Borough.
- 18.2 The previous Sustainable Community Strategy also did not include any actions plans. The Partnership Board has produced four action plans for each priority to be read in conjunction with the SCS, which specifies what additional activity (above and beyond what individual partners are delivering in their own work plans) are being undertaken to address the four priority areas. These Action Plans not only make it clear to all partners what activity is taking place but also provides a mechanism for performance management and to increase the accountability of the Partnership.

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- 18.3 A dedicated Officer has now been in post to service the Partnership for over 12 months. This has enabled the Partnership to develop the SCS and the four actions plans and will enable projects that form part of the four Action Plans to be successfully progressed, developed and monitored.

### **19. COMMUNITY AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT**

Consultation has taken place with the community to inform this refreshed version of the Strategy. A Partnership event was held in January 2010 in the Kingfisher Shopping Centre where residents were asked what their priorities for Redditch were. Additional consultation was undertaken at the Morton Stanley Festival in August 2010 which asked residents questions more specifically about the emerging themes of health, education and the economy.

### **20. OTHERS CONSULTED ON THE REPORT**

Portfolio Holder(s)	Yes – Redditch Partnership Board
Chief Executive	Yes – Redditch Partnership Board
Executive Director (S151 Officer)	Yes - CMT
Executive Director – Leisure, Environment and Community Services	Yes – Redditch Partnership Board
Executive Director – Planning & Regeneration, Regulatory and Housing Services	Yes - CMT
Director of Policy, Performance and Partnerships	Yes – Redditch Partnership Board
Head of Service	N/A
Head of Resources	Yes - CMT
Head of Legal, Equalities & Democratic Services	Yes - CMT
Corporate Procurement Team	No

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21. **WARDS AFFECTED**

All

22. **APPENDICES**

Appendix 1 – Redditch Sustainable Community Strategy

Appendix 2 – (Appendix A) Health Action Plan

Appendix 3 – (Appendix B) Education Action Plan

Appendix 4 – (Appendix C) Economic action Plan

Appendix 5 – (Appendix D) Areas of Highest Need Action Plan

23. **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None identified.

**AUTHOR OF REPORT**

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