



DERBY CITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL CABINET
21 February 2006

Report of the Community Regeneration Commission

Derby's Community Strategy 2006-2009, the 2020 Vision

RECOMMENDATION

- 1 **Option 1** [which would allow the draft to be approved on by Council on 1 March 2006]: To make the following revisions to the draft strategy to make it relevant to the whole of the Council's area and population, as shown:

Our priorities for 2006 – 2009

Over the next three years, we aim to make progress on a range of initiatives and actions which will help us to move towards our 2020 goals. But we have also identified the two key priorities for the next three years where all organisations across the partnership will make a joint effort to achieve results. These priorities are...

A city ~~centre~~ for all ages

A city ~~centre~~ for people of all ages and backgrounds to enjoy at any time of day

To do this, we will...

- improve ~~city centre~~ safety by reducing levels of crime and anti-social behaviour
- make sure people from all parts of the city and all communities can get to and enjoy the city centre
- celebrate the river and realise its potential
- improve health by increasing the number of ~~city centre~~ premises that are smoke free
- support the development of people's skills to meet the needs of Derby~~city centre's~~ employers
- improve the quality and range of arts and cultural venues in the city ~~centre~~
- support the growth of the local economy, focusing on retail, tourism, creative industries and manufacturing engineering
- deliver the right mix and balance of accommodation for city living.

Improving Derby's ~~deprived~~ neighbourhoods

We aim to improve all of Derby's neighbourhoods but to have a particular focus on Derby's deprived neighbourhoods, so that opportunities for people living there are the same as for people living in the rest of the city

To do this, we will...

- improve neighbourhood safety by reducing crime and anti-social behaviour
- increase opportunities for residents to get involved in decisions about their neighbourhoods
- make sure people in areas of high unemployment get access to job opportunities
- raise educational and learning achievement to make sure people from all neighbourhoods have the best opportunities
- improve life expectancy and reduce health inequalities between neighbourhoods
- protect and enhance buildings, streets and the natural environment in local neighbourhoods
- provide varied and attractive cultural and sporting opportunities for everyone within their local neighbourhood
- make sure that existing and future housing is appropriate to meet the housing needs of all parts of the community.

Option 2 [which would defer final approval of the draft strategy to the 24 May meeting of Council, or sooner if a special meeting is convened]: To accept the view of the Community Regeneration Commission that the draft strategy needs revising, so as to make it relevant to the whole of the Council's area and population, and ask officers – in liaison with Derby City Partnership, DCP, - to produce revised wording.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Commission found the general content of the Community Strategy satisfactory. The deficiency is that by having only two priorities, both geographically based, the writ of the Strategy does not extend to the remainder of the City or its population. This does not accord with the aspirations in ***Promising the future.....*** on page 4 which clearly are intended to be city-wide. The impression left is that Council and DCP action and resources are only to be used in the city centre and 13 deprived neighbourhoods whilst a laissez-faire attitude applies to improvements elsewhere. Cllr Redfern gave the example of her ward being split between the part inside the New Deal area, where resources are plentiful, and the part outside where problem-solving is very difficult. The need therefore is to make the Community Strategy *inclusive*.
- 2.2 The Commission were conscious that the intention has been to have the replacement Community Strategy approved and adopted by full Council on 1 March. This did not offer much opportunity to work up suggested detailed rewording of the document for Cabinet's consideration. However, the proposed changes at option 1 offer Cabinet a minimalist way to give effect to the Commission's views. It makes it clear, for example, that improving 'neighbourhood safety by reducing crime and anti-social behaviour' applies as much to Allestree as to Allenton; further, to 'celebrate the river and realise its potential' applies as much to Darley as to the Riverside Gardens.
- 2.3 If Council Cabinet agree with the Commission's concerns but wish to have a more substantial reworking of the draft Strategy, option 2 gives the necessary time for that to be done by deferring final approval by full Council to a later date.
- 2.4 The changes sought by the Commission would better accord with the statutory requirement that the Community Strategy promote the well-being of the Council's area, instead of portions of the Council's area.
- 2.5 The Commission shall wish to see the Action Plans to be produced in relation to the two priorities, the importance of which should cause inclusion in the Forward Plan as key decisions.

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Background papers: As referred to in the main report
List of appendices: Appendix 1 – Implications

IMPLICATIONS

Financial

1. None directly arising.

Legal

- 2 Under Section 4 (1) of the Local Government Act 2000, “every local authority must prepare a [community] strategy for promoting or improving the economic, social and environmental well-being of their area and contributing to the achievement of sustainable development in the United Kingdom”. There is no statutory timescale and no obstacle to deferring approval of the replacement Community Strategy if Cabinet or Council so wish.

Personnel

- 3 None directly arising.

Equalities impact

- 4 The proposed Community Strategy contains actions which will benefit equalities target groups. The Commission’s proposed revisions will better encompass the target groups who live outside the deprived neighbourhoods.

Corporate Objectives and Priorities

- 5 The consultation on revenue budget 2006/7 to 2008/9 introduced four new high level objectives:
 - 1 To improve the quality of life in Derby’s neighbourhoods
 - 2 To encourage lifelong learning and achievement as a catalyst for economic growth
 - 3 To build healthy and sustainable communities
 - 4 To deliver excellent services, performance and value for money

The text at all four objectives shows these are of city-wide application, though clearly more focussed attention is required in underperforming services/deprived areas. Therefore, the Commission’s suggested changes would bring closer alignment between the Strategy and the Council’s own objectives.

