

DERBY'S FIRST COMMUNITY STRATEGY

Report of the Director of Policy

SUMMARY OF REPORT

1. This report presents for consideration the draft text and 2003/4 annual action plans of Derby's first Community Strategy. We are also presenting the document to the Derby City Partnership Board for consideration on 20 March. At this stage, we are seeking comments, in order that the final draft can be approved by Cabinet on 13 May and by the DCP Board on 16 May. The printed document will be launched in DCP Week on Monday 23 June.

OPTIONS CONSIDERED

2. Government guidance requires that the Community Strategy should be prepared by local authorities in partnership with the Local Strategic Partnership, and must reflect all the major strategic objectives of the partnership, informed by local community needs. The contents and structure of the attached document reflect this. An early decision was made that the document should be structured around the DCP 'Cities' themes. We are still considering whether to incorporate the action plans as part of the strategy, or just to have them separately available if more detail is required.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 To consider and make comments on the attached draft for reference to Scrutiny Management Commission for further comment prior to resubmission to Cabinet on 13 May and then to Council on 21 May and the DCP Board.
- 3.2 To consider in particular whether the 2003/4 action plans should be published alongside the strategy document or retain them as separate documents to be made available to people who require this level of detail.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

4. We need to make sure that the draft Community Strategy is given proper consideration by the Council and DCP before the final document is prepared for publication in May.

MATTER FOR CONSIDERATION

- 5.1 In 2001, the Government published guidance which encouraged local authorities to produce Community Strategies in partnership with their Local Strategic Partnerships. The guidance stated that the strategies should show how the Council and the Partnership were bringing about the social, environmental and economic well being of the local area. The strategies are supposed to be visionary, in that they set out a clear vision of what the partnership wishes to achieve; holistic, in that they reflect all the major strategic priorities of the partnership; and inclusive, in that they reflect the priorities of local people and communities.
- 5.2 After discussion in the Council and in DCP, in Derby we decided to base the first Community Strategy on the DCP 2020 Vision document, which was published in 2000. We set up a task group of Council officers and partners to put the strategy together. We held an initial consultation of the very first draft at the beginning of November last year and then circulated a revised version for wider consultation. Consultation consisted of the circulation of 1,500 copies of the draft throughout the partnership and the voluntary and community sector, and a number of special consultation events, including one for voluntary groups, one for all councillors, and one for residents involved in community partnerships. We also used existing forums such as the Older People's Forum to consult about the earlier draft. We will produce a separate document summarising the results of the consultation, at a later date.
- 5.3 The contents of the draft strategy document and the action plans have been approved by the different 'City' groups to which they refer. The strategy document is expected to be reviewed in three years time, but the action plans are for one year only, and will be reviewed annually. The aim of the strategy document is to give the general public an overview of all the key objectives and activities of the partner agencies, as well as to set out the overall vision and priorities of the partnership. The aim of the action plans is to set out in detail the specific things that will be done in 2003/4 to meet the priorities. The draft strategy and action plans have been cross-checked with the Council's corporate plan to make sure the strategy reflects our own priorities. Although the activities in the draft strategy have, on the whole, been the subject of public consultation, we need to put in place arrangements to make sure that, in future years, there is more direct public input into the strategy.
- 5.4 A design company has been selected by DCP to design and print the final document. The design will break up the text and incorporate maps, charts and illustrations. So the final document will not read exactly as it is presented in the attached draft, which simply presents all the text. For example, the section at the end of the attached draft about the proposed physical developments in Derby will be incorporated into a double-page map of the city in the centre of the document. The action plans will be printed separately from the main document – a decision needs to be made whether to produce them as

an accompanying 'glossy' or whether only to copy them as and when required. We also intend to produce a short summary to be circulated very widely.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6. The costs of printing, launching and distributing the Community Strategy will be met from the Derby City Partnership budget with a contribution of £10k from the 2002/3 Community Policy Division budget.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

7. None directly arising.

PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

8. None directly arising.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

9. The Community Strategy shows what the Council and the Partnership are doing to protect and enhance the environment and to enhance community safety.

EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

10. The Community Strategy shows what the Council and the partnership are doing to meet the needs of all groups in the community and to promote community cohesion.

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List of Appendices: Draft Community Strategy, Draft City of Learning Action Plan, Draft City of Opportunity Action Plan, Draft Cultural City Action Plan, Draft Environment City Action Plan, Draft Prosperous City Action Plan, Draft Support for Derby's Communities Action Plan.

Background Papers: Notes of Community Strategy Task Group, notes of DCP meetings, early drafts of community strategy, notes from Community Strategy consultation, all on file in the Community Policy Division.