

Gedling Partnership **Working Together**

Report to Gedling Partnership Executive and Gedling Borough Council Cabinet

Subject : Gedling Community Strategy 2005/6-2007/8 Final Draft Proposal

Date : Gedling Partnership Executive - 29th September 2005
: Gedling Borough Council Cabinet – 6th October 2005

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1. Purpose of the Report

This report outlines proposed changes to the Draft Gedling Community Strategy, following recent consultation with partner agencies and the community.

It has been written for consideration at the Gedling Partnership Executive meeting on 29th September, for endorsement of the proposals and to be recommended to the Partnership Board in October, subject to any changes suggested.

It has also been written for the consideration of the Gedling Borough Council's Cabinet on 6th October for referral for Full Council for final ratification, given the statutory responsibility the Council has for producing a Community Strategy. A verbal update from the Gedling Executive Partnership meeting will be given at the Cabinet meeting.

2. Background

Last year Gedling Partnership agreed to review its existing Community Plan and to produce a new Strategy that could more effectively direct the work of the Partnership.

A draft Strategy for consultation was produced by the Partnership which refined the previous priorities outlined in the existing Plan. The draft proposed a Vision, some Partnership Values and four Key Priority Themes which the Partnership would lead on during the period of the new Strategy. Appendix A gives a list of these key elements of the Draft Strategy.

During the summer the Partnership consulted with a range of different people, which included Board members attending the meetings of community organisations and copies of the draft being sent to a range of people in the Community, including partner agencies, community groups, parish councils and elected members.

Responses on the draft Strategy have since been collated and analysed, and this information can be found in Appendix B. These findings have helped to shape the proposals outlined in this report.

3. Proposal

A proposed final draft of the Community Strategy is included as Appendix C of this report.

The following changes within this final draft Strategy are proposed:

Purpose of the Strategy

To build on the introduction section of the Draft Strategy some reference as to the exact purpose of the Strategy is required. It proposed to:

Indicate that the purpose of the document is to give strategic direction to partnership work in the Borough and that more specific actions will appear in Partnership Delivery Plans (page 4).

Include some identified actions under each theme and then refer the reader to the relevant Delivery Plan (pages 22, 26, 31 and 33).

What have we achieved so far?

The need to refer to the outcomes and achievements of the previous Community Plan was highlighted during the consultation: As a result the following is proposed:

A section in the "Introduction" highlighting Gedling Partnership's achievements so far (page 5-6).

Emerging Trends

The need to reflect emerging trends in the Borough was highlighted through the consultation within the "Profile" section of the Draft Strategy. As a result the following is proposed:

Specific trends and projections, relating to demographics, deprivation and employment, included in the Profile section of the Strategy (pages 7-9).

A specific outcome based on the Partnership to continually assess these trends and acting upon them if necessary (page 19).

Partnership Working

Gedling Primary Care Trust is currently subject to a re-organisation, the outcome of which is still uncertain. As the PCT is a key local player in Gedling Partnership, leading on the Health Inequalities Priority, the following is proposed:

Reference to the importance of continued health involvement in Gedling Partnership post re-organisation (page 11).

National Context

Since the Draft Strategy was written there have been some policy developments which need to be drawn upon in this section. As a result, the following is proposed:

Update information on Local Area Agreements to reflect the new proposals for a new Nottinghamshire LAA (page 13).

Include reference to the Youth Matters Green Paper currently being considered by the Youth Action Group (page 14).

New Priority Theme – A Better Environment

One of the main issues arising from the consultation on the draft Strategy that was not specifically included in the Strategy was improving the local environment in the Borough. In addition, there is a direct statutory requirement for community strategies to consider planning and land use issues under the Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. As a result, the following is proposed:

A fifth Priority Theme – A Better Environment. By adding this theme the Strategy more accurately reflect the various elements of the vision, which includes reference to a “better environment.” It also addresses the statutory requirement outline above, and reflects the Partnership’s work on improving the physical environment (pages 35-37).

An outcome for Older People

Another gap in the Strategy highlighted in the consultation was an outcome for older people, particularly as the borough has an ageing population. As a result, the following is proposed:

“Improved Quality of Life for Older People” as a new outcome within the Tackling Health Inequalities Theme (page 29).

Why have we chosen the outcomes?

The consultation has pointed out and the Partnership has also acknowledged that there should more emphasis on why the outcomes have been chosen. As a result, the following is proposed:

Expand on the “Consultation and Research Findings” for each outcome, sourcing where information has been gathered from (pages 19-37).

Indicators and Targets

One the key comments from the consultation was the need to improve the indicators and targets, by ensuring they are relevant, achievable and understandable. As a result, the following is proposed:

The indicator for Avoidable Injuries was cited as being too organisational. A new indicator for this outcome to be sought as part of the development of an Injury Reduction Strategy (page 28).

All indicators where applicable now show a show a baseline from which a target will be measured. Equally, a timescale is included in the target where possible (pages 19-37).

Further indicators have been added from the Audit Commission list of quality of life indicators that are relevant to outcomes listed in the Strategy. The Audit Commission expects such indicators to be used to measure the effectiveness of community strategies (pages 19-37).

Easy to Read

It was suggested during the consultation that the Strategy should be easy to read and accessible by the whole Community. As a result, the following is proposed:

To explain the purpose of the Strategy and the target audience of this document (page 4).

To produce a more easily digestible Summary version targeted at the wider Community (page 4).

To include a Glossary of Terms (page 39).

4. Resource Implications

Costs of producing the Strategy, including consultation, can be met from agreed existing resources. This includes contribution from Gedling Borough Council and Nottinghamshire County Council. As a strategic document driving the future agenda of the Partnership, the Strategy has potentially far-reaching resource implications for all partner organisations.

5. Recommendation

Gedling Partnership Executive consider the proposals and recommend the Strategy to the Partnership Board on 12th October subject to any amendments.

Gedling Borough Council Cabinet to consider the proposals and any additional verbal update given from the Gedling Partnership Executive meeting and then to recommend adoption of the Strategy by the meeting of the Council to be held on 26th October 2005, subject to any changes made at the Gedling Partnership Board on 12th October.

Appendix A: Draft Strategy Vision, Values and Priority Themes

Vision

Gedling Borough as a community in which everyone plays their part in bringing about greater security, greater prosperity, improved health and a better environment for all. A Borough where people want to live and do business.

Values

- Partnership
- Community Involvement and Participation
- Social Inclusion
- Equality and Opportunity
- Community Cohesion
- Rural Proofing
- Efficiency and Quality
- Communication and Marketing
- Flexibility
- Sustainability

Priority Themes

- Action for Youth
- Tackling Health Inequalities
- Safer Communities
- Building Social Capital and Pride in the Local Area

Appendix B
Analysis of Consultation Responses
Draft Gedling Community Strategy 2005/6-2007/8

Below is a list of all the comments received as part of the consultation process. They have been split into to 3 sections.

The first section highlights comments made on what **key issues and themes** the Strategy should focus on.

The second section highlights specific **comments and suggestions about the format and content** of the draft document.

The third section highlights comments relating to **any other issues** raised.

Comments have been grouped under specific headings to aid analysis to give an indication of the preferred issues of Consultees. The numbers reflect how many comments relevant to each heading were made.

Comments on Key Issues and Themes

Key themes and values included in the Draft Strategy, which many consultees felt were most important, included “Young People”, “Involvement of the Voluntary and Community Sector” and “Effective Communication with the Community”. Issues relating to Tackling Health Inequalities and Community Safety were highlighted as key issues.

In terms of issues not directly addressed in the Draft Strategy, consultees referred to needs of Older People and Environmental Sustainability as the key issues. Encouraging Sports and Physical Activity was also highlighted as a key priority not directly referred to.

Other Key Issues and Themes are highlighted in the table below.

Summary table

Key Issue
Relating to Young People (14)
Involving the Voluntary and Community Sector (13)
Relating to Older People (11)
Effective Communication with the Community (10)
Relating to Environmental Sustainability (9)
Tackling Health Inequalities (8)
Community Safety (7)
Sports and Physical Activity (5)
Drugs (4)
Ensure links with County Community Strategy (3)

Transport Issues (2)
Planning and Town Centres (2)
Business (2)
Must link to Local Area Agreement themes (1)
People with Disabilities (1)

Comments on the Content and Format of Draft Document

The need to improve the targets in the Draft Community Strategy has the most responses (9) in terms of comments directly about the document. 7 comments supported the Priority Themes and 6 supported the Values in the Draft Plan.

6 people said they would like to get involved or kept informed, while there were 5 suggestions about both the format of the document and the lack of specific actions.

Other Comments relating to the Draft document are highlighted in the table below.

Summary table

Key Comments
Improve Targets (9)
Support the Priority Themes (7)
Support the Values (6)
Would like to Get Involved or be kept Informed (6)
Suggestions on document format (5)
Lack of Actions in the Strategy (5)
Support the Vision (4)
Ensure Effective Delivery of the Strategy (3)
Suggestions for Profile Section (2)
Suggestions for Outcomes (2)
Needs to refer to outcomes of 2003-2008 Plan (1)
Strategy should have Positive Focus (1)
Do not Support Building Social Capital and Pride In the Local Area (1)
Strategy should highlight who is involved (1)

Comments Relating to Other Issues

There were two other comments highlighted by consultees listed in the table below.

Summary table

Key comments
Newstead Villagers feel they get limited input from Gedling BC (1)
Unclear how represented on the Partnership (1)

Consultees

Responses received from

Arnold Killisick Residents Association
Arnold Local Area Forum
Carlton Community Forum Steering Group
Changing Lifestyles Management Group
Conway Community Forum
Environment Agency
Gedling Borough Council Housing Services
Gedling Borough Council Local Plans Section
Gedling Health and Social Well-being Partnership
Gedling Primary Care Trust Board
Gedling Schools Sports Partnership
Honeywood Estate Action Team
Mrs Shirley Hoskins, Woodborough
Alan Langton, Arnold Local Area Forum Representative on Board
Newstead Parish Council
Netherfield Forum
Nottinghamshire County Drug & Alcohol Action Team
Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust
The Pensions Service
Inspector Mark Towlson, Gedling South, Nottinghamshire Police
Cllr Grant Withers, Parish Councils' Representative on Board

Partnership Attended the Meetings Of

Arnold Association Neighbourhood Watch
Arnold Killisick Residents Association
Arnold Local Area Forum
Burton Joyce Parish Council
Calverton Community Forum
Calverton Parish Council
Carlton Community Forum Steering Group
Gedling District Youth Assembly
Honeywood Estate Action Team
Newstead Parish Council
Linby Parish Council
Ravenshead Parish Council