



Gedling Partnership **Working Together**

Report to

Gedling Partnership Board 22 September 2008
Gedling BC Cabinet 2 October 2008

Subject: Draft Sustainable Community Strategy

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1. Purpose of the Report

- To seek endorsement from the Partnership Board and from Cabinet for the outline draft Sustainable Community Strategy, for consultation with stakeholders during October 2008.

2. Background

The Council has since the Local Government Act 2000 had a statutory duty to adopt a Community Strategy setting out what it proposes to do to promote the economic, social and environmental well-being of the area. It is expected to work with partners to deliver such well-being.

The recent Sustainable Communities Act requires councils to lead production and delivery of the Sustainable Community Strategy that sets out a vision and priorities for the area, in effect demonstrating how the Council will work with partners to promote economic, social and environmental well-being.

A Sustainable Community Strategy need not necessarily cover a single district area – with agreement, district areas can join together to produce a Sustainable

Community Strategy covering two or more districts. In two-tier areas, Government increasingly expects there to be a Sustainable Community Strategy at county as well as district level, reflecting the link between Sustainable Community Strategies and their delivery through Local Area Agreements (LAAs).

In Gedling, the preference of both the Borough Council and the Gedling Partnership is that there should be a Sustainable Community Strategy at the district level – indeed, the Gedling Sustainable Community Strategy is at the heart of the Council's organisational vision, reflecting its community leadership role. The Gedling Sustainable Community Strategy will then feed into and influence the Nottinghamshire Sustainable Community Strategy.

The current Gedling Community Strategy covers the period to the end of 2008. An approach to its review was agreed by Gedling Partnership in July 2007, reflecting changing requirements of a Sustainable Community Strategy set out in legislation and draft guidance at the time.

That review is now drawing towards a close, as we reach the stage of a new outline Sustainable Community Strategy, on which consultation is proposed. This is in line with the approach the Partnership agreed last Summer.

3. Draft Sustainable Community Strategy

A draft outline Sustainable Community Strategy is attached at **Appendix A** for consideration. Changes to the draft proposed by Gedling Partnership Board at its meeting on 22 September are set in italics.

The draft has been developed following: -

- In-depth analysis of the State of the Borough (reflecting the need for a more evidence-based approach), the findings of which were reported to the Partnership and the Borough Council in March/April 2008
- Consultation with stakeholders and with the wider community on the State of the Borough findings during April/May 2008
- Analysis of the findings of that consultation during June/July/August 2008
- Identification of potential priorities, taking into account degree of impact and short/long term issues, arising from the evidence base and consultation responses
- Assessment of fit with current national, regional, county and current district priorities.

The draft outline Sustainable Community Strategy includes a suggested vision for the Borough and suggested priorities derived from this, with reasons for their proposed inclusion. All draw upon the evidence gathering, consultation and analysis outlined above.

The final version will also include more information about the State of the Borough findings and details of Equality Impact Assessment and Sustainability Impact Assessments, which are still to be completed.

In line with the approach previously agreed, the new Borough Housing Strategy is being incorporated into the Sustainable Community Strategy. The aim is to make this as seamless as possible, drawing Housing-related issues into the main body of the Sustainable Community Strategy. A more detailed Housing technical appendix is also being developed, which will itself be subject of consultation with targeted stakeholders during October. GOEM have indicated support for this approach, which is in line with good practice recommendations.

4. Next Steps

In line with the approach to the Sustainable Community Strategy review previously agreed, the next stage is to consult with stakeholders and partners on the draft outline Community Strategy. This will include consultation with members of the Borough Council's Policy Review Scrutiny Committee.

The following consultation questions are suggested: -

- Do you agree with our vision for the Borough in 2026?
- Do you agree with our priorities to be addressed to deliver that vision?
- Do you have any alternative suggestions?
- What outcomes should we be aiming to secure to deliver the vision by 2026?
- What outcomes should we be aiming to secure in the shorter-term (the next three years and five years) to move towards the vision and priorities?
- Has your organisation made any commitments already towards this vision and these priorities?
- If so, what are those commitments? Over what timescale? Could we incorporate them in partnership action planning?
- How might you and your organisation contribute towards delivery of the strategy?
- Are there any issues and influences within partners' areas of responsibility (that have not been covered in the State of the Borough reports) that might impact on delivery of the strategy in the short, medium or long term?

Consultation will take place over four weeks from 3 – 31 October.

Answers to these questions will help inform progress, including that towards target setting and action planning if consultees are supportive of the broad direction.

The aim would be to draw on feedback from consultation to inform the final draft, which will also incorporate more detailed content outlined above, as set out in the framework contents previously agreed.

A final draft is due to be presented to the Partnership Board in late November and Gedling BC Cabinet on 4 December, for recommendation to full Council for adoption in line with constitutional requirements.

Design and print will follow with a view to a community launch in early 2009. The opportunity to include a summary in or with the Spring 2009 edition of the Borough magazine "Contacts" will be explored.

Action planning for strategy delivery will be carried out in the early part of 2009, building on what partners are already doing to address the priority issues and progressing any new areas for future activity identified in the strategy.

5. Resource Implications

Support of the multi-agency project team has been fundamental to the delivery of the review and this needs to continue into 2009 for the project to be completed successfully.

Adequate financial resource is available for the publication and launch of the Sustainable Community Strategy.

Longer-term resource implications are likely to be significant, as all partners might reasonably be expected to align resource allocations towards delivery of the strategy where this is not already the case.

6. Recommendation

Gedling Partnership Board is recommended: -

- To endorse the draft Sustainable Community Strategy.
- To recommend to Gedling Borough Council Cabinet that the draft Sustainable Community Strategy is agreed for consultation.

Should Gedling Partnership Board support this recommendation, Gedling Borough Council Cabinet is recommended: -

- To support Gedling Partnership Board's recommendation and agree the draft Sustainable Community Strategy for consultation.