

 CARLISLE CITY COUNCIL REPORT TO EXECUTIVE www.carlisle.gov.uk			
PORTFOLIO AREA: POLICY, PERFORMANCE, FINANCE & RESOURCES			
Date of Meeting:		5th April 2004	
Public			
Key Decision:	Yes	Recorded in Forward Plan:	Yes
Outside Policy Framework			

Title: JOINT CARLISLE & EDEN COMMUNITY STRATEGY

Report of: Strategic & Performance Services

Report reference: SP 11/04

Summary:

A draft Carlisle & Eden Community Strategy was presented to Members in the latter part of 2003. Members' contributions were wide-ranging and constructive and have been incorporated into the attached re-draft. The revised document has a greater focus on the high-level strategic issues which affect both Carlisle and Eden areas and draws more heavily on the City Vision document. Members were particularly concerned with aspects of the joint action plan and the validity for Carlisle of some of the issues within. It is proposed that the joint action plan is cancelled in favour of Carlisle and Eden specific action plans.

Recommendations:

That Members:

- Endorse the redrafted joint strategy and commend it to Overview and Scrutiny Committees for consultation
- Cancel the production of a joint Carlisle and Eden action plan in favour of area specific action plans

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2. **BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND OPTIONS**

1.1 Carlisle and Eden Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) was established in 2001 after successful joint working during the Foot and Mouth epidemic. The LSP is an umbrella partnership that brings together organisations from the public, private, community and voluntary sectors in Carlisle and Eden. Its key objective is to improve the quality of life for Carlisle and Eden communities.

1.2 The perceived benefits of an LSP are that: -

- Duplication of effort will be removed, with organisations working towards the same goals
- The benefits of sustainable growth are achieved across the area
- Deprived areas will see economic, social and physical improvements to their environment
- Business and the community/voluntary sectors can play a full and equal part.

1.3 One of the core tasks for any LSP is to prepare and implement a **community strategy** for the area which identifies the most important things that need to be done to improve quality of life in the area, supported by an action plan of activities which can be used to monitor progress.

1.4 The Carlisle and Eden LSP developed a joint strategy and action plan which was circulated to Carlisle City Council Overview and Scrutiny Committees towards the end of the last calendar year. The general consensus of the Committees was that it required further work, particularly to establish Carlisle's priorities more firmly in the document.

1.5 In order to make the required improvements, a small writing group was established and has produced the attached redrafted document. It has taken account of the many comments made in the original consultation which have resulted in:-

- A greater focus in the Strategy on the high-level strategic issues facing both Carlisle and Eden, drawing heavily on Carlisle City Vision. The more detailed, area specific commentary has been removed
- The proposed cancellation of any further development of the joint Carlisle/Eden action plan, which accompanied the document, in favour of two area-based action plans – one for Eden and one for Carlisle, which will be developed by the respective authorities and their partners once the Strategy has been finalised.

6. The advantages of this approach are:-

- Clear community leadership is shown by Carlisle City Council via the Strategy
- Partners in the LSP are given a clear signal of the City Council's support
- An action plan can be developed focusing on Carlisle's priorities only, which is less confusing, a more useful management tool and gives greater control over progress.

1.7 Although individual action plans will be developed, they will highlight where synergy can be achieved by working jointly with Eden partners. Progress on action plans will be reported regularly to the LSP Executive.

1. CONSULTATION

1. Consultation to Date.

Overview & Scrutiny Committees; Local Strategic Partnership partners;
Corporate Management Team; City Vision partners

Priority areas based on City Vision document, which was based on wide-ranging consultation

2. Consultation proposed.

Corporate Management Team, Overview & Scrutiny Committees, City Vision partners

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

That Members:

- Endorse the redrafted joint strategy and commend it to Overview and Scrutiny Committees for consultation
- Cancel the production of a joint Carlisle and Eden action plan in favour of area specific action plans

1. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

The Strategy is now focused at the strategic level, which enables Carlisle and Eden to work together on areas of mutual concern, but also enables each to focus on priorities within their own areas, as the two areas have some quite different issues to deal with. The production of separate action plans enables Carlisle City Council to maintain and build on its strong relationship with the City Vision partnership.

2. IMPLICATIONS

- Staffing/Resources – In adopting this Strategy, there will be a staff resource implication as policy officers develop and monitor the action plan and Business Units work towards achieving its objectives
- Financial – The intention of an LSP is that the resources of all partner organisations will be mobilised to achieve the Community Strategy. As the Strategy draws heavily on our objectives under City Vision, there are no financial implications specific to the production of this document
- Legal – There are no particular legal implications with regard to this document.
- Corporate – The report deals with corporate issues
- Risk Management – The risks associated with this latest draft are much reduced, particularly as the action plans will now be area specific. There is a reputational risk

for the Council with its stakeholders if it fails to achieve improvements in these areas

- Equality Issues – Equality of access to services for the whole community is mentioned specifically in the document
- Environmental – Environmental concerns, and the need to balance them with economic development issues are referred to specifically in the document
- Crime and Disorder – As above
- Impact on Customers – There should be a positive impact on customers as partners work together on cross-cutting problems which are impossible for Carlisle City Council to solve alone