

BRECKLAND COUNCIL

POLICY DEVELOPMENT & REVIEW PANEL (2) – 20 JUNE 2007

REPORT OF THE OPERATIONS MANAGER (CABINET)

(Author: Mitch Kerry, Corporate Policy Manager)

TOWARDS A STRATEGY FOR SOCIAL INCLUSION IN BRECKLAND

Summary: Members are asked to comment on the consultant's report, which will form the basis of the proposed LSP Social Inclusion Strategy.

1. INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The aim of the Community Plan for Breckland is "to improve the quality of life for all people living and working in, and visiting Breckland".
- 1.2 The Breckland Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) wishes to adopt a Social Inclusion Strategy aimed at helping those who are least able to enjoy the quality of life that others living and working in Breckland can expect.

2. KEY DECISION

- 2.1 This is not a key decision.

3. COUNCIL PRIORITIES

- 3.1 The matter raised in this report falls within the following Council priorities:
 - A safe and healthy environment
 - A well planned place to live which encourages vibrant communities
 - A prosperous place to live and work

4. THE DRAFT STRATEGY

- 4.1 As a key stakeholder in the LSP, Breckland Council is asked to consider the attached consultant's report on developing a Social Inclusion Strategy and action plan. The LSP will consider and agree the main priorities (such as the overall vision, the strategic objectives and the main priorities for action) for tackling social exclusion.
- 4.2 The report paints a picture of social exclusion in the district – what it means to be deprived and isolated in a generally prosperous rural area. The report also puts forward proposals for a strategic approach, aimed at enabling all organisations in the area to build on existing initiatives; address gaps in provision and overcome barriers to effective action.

5. OPTIONS AVAILABLE

- 5.1 To comment on the report.
- 5.2 Not to comment on the report.

6. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 6.1 The Council is a key stakeholder in the Breckland LSP and, as such, its views are important in developing the proposed Social Inclusion Strategy.

7. RECOMMENDATION(S)

7.1 The Panel is asked to consider and comment on:

- (a) the general approach to developing the Strategy and its associated action plan;
- (b) the analysis of the nature of social exclusion in Breckland; and
- (c) the analysis of the context within which the Strategy is being developed;

Appendices: "Towards a strategy for social inclusion in Breckland", report by Kevin Ambrose, May 2007

Where appropriate, this report has taken account of the need for compliance with

- The Council's Equal Opportunities Policies and Gender Equality Scheme
- Section 17, Crime & Disorder Act 1998
- Human Rights Act 1998
- Section 40, Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006