

## **BRECKLAND LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP**

**LSP BOARD, 12 April 2007**

### **SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGIES - A SHARED APPROACH FOR NORFOLK**

**Report of Rob Walker, Local Strategic Partnership Officer**

#### **Summary**

This report sets out the outcome from the Joint LSP Seminar held on 13<sup>th</sup> March, which looked at developing a shared approach for Sustainable Community Strategies in Norfolk.

#### **Introduction**

In early 2006 the Government undertook a national consultation on the role of Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs). The findings from this consultation were included in the Local Government White Paper 'Strong and Prosperous Communities', which was published in October 2006. Chapter 5 of the White Paper specifically relates to LSPs and outlines a new requirement on LSPs to produce a Sustainable Community Strategy

At the LSP Board meeting on 8 February, the Breckland LSP agreed to refresh the Community Plan for Breckland during 2007 and incorporate the government's requirements for Sustainable Community Strategies.

This task is being undertaken simultaneously by all the district Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs) in Norfolk and the County Strategic Partnership.

It has been recognised that whilst there are local differences, there is a willingness to work together across local authority boundaries, to develop a shared approach for the definition and framework of Sustainable Community Strategies in Norfolk.

A joint LSP Seminar was held in Swaffham on 13<sup>th</sup> March to progress this work.

#### **Developing a shared framework**

The purpose of the joint LSP seminar was to:

- Develop a shared and common definition of sustainable communities
- Develop a framework for Sustainable Community Strategies, including the level of connection across the county.

Each district LSP and the NCSP were represented at the seminar. Breckland LSP was represented by: Rob Walker, Martin Seymour, David Ovenden, Nick Vass Bowen and Mitch Kerry.

#### **Definition of sustainable communities**

At the seminar, there was consensus for the Government's long definition of Sustainable Communities:

*'Sustainable communities are places where people want to live and work, now and in the future. They meet the diverse needs of existing and future*

*residents, are sensitive to their environment, and contribute to a high quality of life. They are safe and inclusive, well planned, built and run, and offer equality of opportunity and good services for all.'*

The Local Development Framework consultation events, held across Breckland during March, have been used to make this definition more meaningful for Breckland residents.

### **Components of Sustainable Community Strategy**

At the seminar, there was also agreement to the components outlined by the Government in the LSP consultation document. The headline components for Sustainable Community Strategies are:

1. Active, inclusive and safe
2. Well run
3. Environmentally sensitive
4. Well designed and built
5. Well connected
6. Thriving
7. Well served
8. Fair for everyone

### **Joint working**

At the seminar, it was felt there was a real opportunity for joint working not only through the strategies but also in our ways of working.

It was agreed to share the developing priorities from each Sustainable Community Strategy to enable the links to be made. It was also acknowledged that we needed to improve the opportunities for sharing best practice across the county.

### **Norfolk County Strategic Partnership Recommendations**

The Norfolk County Strategic Partnership are making a number of recommendations following the joint seminar.

Firstly, that NCSP and LSP representatives take the agreed outcomes of the seminar to their Partnerships for discussion and agreement, as they develop their sustainable community strategies.

Second, that the LSP Network (county and district LSP Officers) brings together the priorities from district and county strategies to identify the emerging interlocking opportunities

### **Recommendations**

The Breckland Local Strategic Partnership is asked to consider the above recommendations and agree the shared approach to developing Sustainable Community Strategies in Norfolk.

It is recommended that: -

- The Breckland LSP adopts the definition of 'sustainable communities' and the headline components as listed above.

- Opportunities for developing shared approaches and joint working should be maximised where appropriate