

Wards affected:

General

Strategy Group – 10 April 2014

Daventry District Community Strategy 2010 – 2026 (2014 Update)

Corporate Issues

1. Purpose of Report

To seek approval for the Daventry District Community Strategy 2010 – 2026 (2014 Update)

2. Advice

That it be RECOMMENDED:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. That the responses received during the consultation period be noted.2. That the Daventry District Community Strategy 2010 – 2026 (2014 Update) as attached at Appendix 1 be approved.
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3. Introduction

At its meeting on 10th October 2014, Strategy Group approved for consultation for a 12 week period a Daventry District Community Strategy, intended to replace the Daventry District Sustainable Community Strategy which was reaching the end of its life. The draft new Strategy retained the previous vision and three priority areas whilst updating the remainder of the document to reflect changes that have occurred over the last four years.

169 responses were received to the consultation, raising a variety of issues which have resulted in a number of amendments to the proposed Strategy, most significantly to the Environment section. A summary of all the comments received together with the officer response is available in the '*Consultation Summary – Daventry District Community Strategy 2010 – 2026 (2014 Update)*'.

4. Information

Under the Local Government Act 2000 and Sustainable Communities Act 2007, the Council is responsible for preparing a Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS). The Deregulation Bill currently progressing through Parliament would remove the duty for the Council to prepare a Sustainable Community Strategy. However, all LSP partners were surveyed and the overwhelming majority of them acknowledged the need to retain a high level strategic document that identifies

community priorities and provides a focus that the Council and partner organisations can concentrate on.

The purpose of the Community Strategy is to establish the overall strategic direction and long term vision for the District and set out the priorities for members of the Local Strategic Partnership to achieve this.

Public consultation was undertaken between the 1st November 2013 and the 24th January 2014. The consultation was mainly via an online survey, supplemented by paper copies of the questionnaire where requested. The link to the online survey was posted on the Council website and other Council social media sites, advertised in local media and sent to members of the LSP, People's Panel, parish councils, DDC Members and officers. Officers also attended meetings with the voluntary sector, parish councils and the Disability Access Forum to promote the consultation.

The consultation focused on whether respondents supported the identified priorities and objectives and asked them to suggest ideas for activities the partnership should consider.

169 responses were received to the survey and these are set out in the Consultation Summary Report along with the officer response. The majority of responses to the consultation were positive including the following.

- 78% of respondents agreed with the vision statement.
- 94% agreed with the Health and Wellbeing objective.
- 98% agreed with the Economy, Learning, Skills and Employment objective.
- 89% agreed with the Protect and Enhance our Environment objective.

An amended version of the draft Strategy is included as Appendix 1 to this report and includes changes to both update the status of the document (that is, in its intended adopted form) and reflect the responses received during the consultation. LSP theme groups and the LSP Board have also had the opportunity to review the comments received and to endorse the changes proposed to the Strategy.

Changes have been made to the 'Vision' section of the strategy to take account of the comments received. Background text has been added to set out why we have a vision and to clarify that this vision is intended to be for the life of the Plan (i.e. at least until 2026). The first sentence in this section has been highlighted as this was considered to be the actual vision statement with the remainder of the text being background/descriptive statements of what we would like the District to be like. The section on 'integrated transport system' has been reworded to 'a network of innovative transport services' as partners felt this was the key issue for the community. The words 'even safer' have been added to address concerns raised by the Police and other respondents that the Strategy does not have any focus on community safety.

The 'Key Priorities' section of the Strategy has been updated to include the full objective statement for each priority area to make this section much clearer.

The Health and Wellbeing objective statement has been reworded to reflect the submissions received.

The Environment section has been significantly amended to reflect concerns that partnership activities should be focused at a much more local level and should be focused on education and community involvement.

Draft Action Plans for 2014 have been included in the Strategy as well as performance indicators. Targets will be set by partners once 2013/14 baseline figures are confirmed. Action plans should be viewed as flexible so that as and when new opportunities for partnership activity arise these can be included in the plan.

Many of the comments received raised very specific matters, beyond the scope of this Strategy. Where appropriate these comments have been forwarded to the appropriate officer or organisation for their information. The Community Strategy is intentionally expressed at a strategic level to ensure that it does not preclude any sections of the community and provides the widest possible opportunity to encompass all potential opportunities for partnership working.

Monitoring of the thematic Action Plans will occur quarterly through the theme group meetings, LSP Board and will form part of the Council's corporate monitoring and reporting processes.

Subject to approval, the Strategy will be published on the Council's website. It will also be necessary to update a number of corporate documents and other references that refer to the Strategy and its key priority areas.

5. Implications

5.1 Financial – No additional resources should be required as the majority of the Action Plan should be implemented within existing budgets. Where this is not possible external funding will be sought in the first instance.

5.2 Personnel – No additional resources will be required as existing staff within DDC will be responsible for implementing the Action Plan or working with partners to do so.

5.3 Legal/Constitutional – Under the Local Government Act 2000 and Sustainable Communities Act 2007, the Council is responsible for preparing a Sustainable Community Strategy. Until such time as the duty is repealed, the new Strategy would be that document. After that time, powers to prepare, adopt and implement such a Strategy are given by, among other powers, the general power of competence under Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011.

5.4 Environmental – The proposed Community Strategy includes a positive approach to environmental issues, including biodiversity.

5.5 Policy – The Community Strategy is the overarching strategic policy document for Daventry District. For the Council, the Community Strategy sets the context for the Corporate Strategic Plan which sets out how the council will deliver on the priorities identified in the Community Strategy. The current

Corporate Strategic Plan was prepared having regard to the emerging Community Strategy and none of the changes proposed in this version adversely affect it.

5.6 ICT – The implementation of the proposed Community Strategy is not expected to require any new or modified ICT systems.

5.7 Crime and Disorder – The Community Strategy continues to support the work of the Community Safety Partnership and provide a context for it.

5.8 Human Rights – The proposed Community Strategy does not appear to engage any of the Convention rights. This is reasonable, given its strategic nature and that it does not, of itself, involve or propose measures which involve the use of state powers over individuals. Implications for specific Convention rights may arise in implementation of particular initiatives or projects; these will be assessed as required, on a case-by-case basis.

5.9 Equalities – It does not appear likely that any of the policy direction provided by the proposed Community Strategy would adversely impact on people with any of the protected characteristics, or have an obviously differential impact except where this is obviously justified (for example, concern about school performance obviously relates to children and young people). Given that this is a particularly strategic document this is perhaps unexpected. Implementation of particular initiatives or projects as a result of the strategy may give rise to specific equalities impacts; these will be assessed as required, on a case-by-case basis.

6. Conclusions

The draft Daventry District Community Strategy 2010-2026 (2014 Update) has been subject to community consultation. The purpose of such a Strategy remains to provide a clear focus for the work of the Council and its partners for the good of the District as a whole. The majority of respondents were supportive of the draft Strategy, however, in response to comments received a number of changes have been made to the draft document. Subject to those changes it is recommended that the document be adopted.

S P Bowers
Business Manager

Background papers:

Consultation Summary – Daventry District Community Strategy 2010 – 2026 (2014 Update)

Previous minutes:

SG.57/13/02 Daventry District Community Strategy 2014 – 2018

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