

South Derbyshire Local Strategic Partnership

Report to the LSP Board

Date of meeting: 17th December 2008

Agenda Item: 6

Update on the Sustainable Community Strategy

Issue

The Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) Project Team has begun the process of developing the new Strategy. The Team has progressed the consultation phase in terms of the perceived priorities of local people and is proposing a consultation event in January which will confirm the direction of the Strategy and future actions. The Project Team have also identified the need to bring in external capacity to support the process.

Background

The process for the production of the new SCS has started which will result in a multi agency plan for the future of the District.

Detail

The project team, chaired by Jo Smith, has been meeting and has progressed the development of the evidence base and the initial consultation with the local community on their perceived areas of priority.

Community Strategy Review

The next task is to complete a review of what the first Community Strategy achieved and this is to be undertaken in the next month with an analysis of the previous annual action plans and consultation with the Theme Groups. The findings from this review will be brought to a planning event in January, 2009.

Planning Event

This planning event will be the principle consultation event for the community of South Derbyshire to confirm the Strategies priorities and start to develop a series of actions for future delivery. It is proposed to hold the event at the Toyota works and to take the form of an open morning where people will have the opportunity to visit 'theme exhibits' and provide their thoughts on the evidence provided at each exhibit. The Exhibits will be staffed by officers/volunteers from the partners agencies involved in the LSP. Ideally each theme will have a representative from the public, private and voluntary sector to ensure a balanced approach and the 'buy in' from the LSP partners in the process.

The feedback will then be used to draft the Strategy and develop the initial action plan.

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Capacity

The Project Team has identified that there is not the capacity within its membership to undertake all the work required to complete the above actions. Consequently it is proposed to contract external support to undertake the planning and the writing up of the Strategy following the 'event'.

Financial Implications

The Project Team require a working budget of up to £10,000 to complete the planned work. This will cover the costs of delivering the Planning Event, including the provision of transport for community groups who require assistance, consultant support for planning and preparation of the Strategy and the design and printing of publicity material and the actual strategy.

The £10,000 will be funded from the LSPs' existing budget which has a current balance of £30,000. The Sustainable Community Strategy is the most important piece of work that the LSP will do so the use of the £10,000 represents an appropriate level of expenditure.

Recommendations

The Board notes the proposal of the Sustainable Community Strategy Project Team and approves the allocation of up to £10,000 towards the work proposed.

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