

CABINET – 16 FEBRUARY 2010

CHERWELL SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY

Report by Head of Partnership Working

Introduction

1. In May 2009 Cabinet endorsed the Sustainable Community Strategies for four districts in the county. Cherwell Local Strategic Partnership (formerly the Cherwell Community Planning Partnership) was in the process of revising their sustainable community Strategy at that point.

Background

2. As a key partner in the Cherwell Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) the county council was involved in the process to develop the strategy and commented extensively during the consultation period in the summer 2009. Responses to the proposed priorities from services across the council were collated and submitted by the Partnerships Working Unit.
3. The Partnership accepted the comments from county council services and they were largely reflected in the final draft.

The strategy

4. The Cherwell Sustainable Community Strategy; 'Our district, our future' was adopted by the Cherwell LSP in November 2009. The vision for Cherwell is a diverse economy with opportunities for all, vibrant communities connected by a sense of pride, place and purpose.
5. The vision for Cherwell in 2030 has four ambitions and under each of these objectives and priorities for action are identified. The priorities align well with the Oxfordshire Partnership's Oxfordshire 2030 vision and the county council's corporate priorities.
 - (a) Opportunities for all – our communities in 2030
 - (b) Diverse and resilient – our economy in 2030
 - (c) Connected and protected – our infrastructure and environment in 2030
 - (d) Resourceful and receptive – community leadership in 2030
6. Each ambition also identifies specific local priorities for communities in Banbury, Bicester, Kidlington and rural areas.

A. Community objectives

- Provide support for older people to live independently.

- Focus activity on tackling deprivation in both urban and rural Cherwell.
- Offer high quality education, support and opportunities to our young people and families.
- Reduce the number of people who fear crime and feel unsafe in their area.
- Maintain and develop health services, including preventive health programmes.

B. Economic objectives

- Raise expectations and ambitions and provide a range of economic opportunities for everyone including lifelong learning and retraining.
- Manage our infrastructure development, matching housing growth with local jobs, transport to work, facilities and services.
- Promote and support business diversification and a sustainable economy in both urban and rural environments.

C. Infrastructure and environmental objectives

- Cherish the resources that define Cherwell's character and distinctiveness including our natural environment, our built heritage and the vitality of our towns and villages.
- Mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change including minimising our waste and resource use.
- Improve accessibility and tackle congestion including a shift in transport methods.
- Ensure our social infrastructure grows at the same rate as our communities and current deficiencies in provision are addressed.

D. Leadership objectives

- Ensure fully inclusive democratic structures and processes with leaders at all levels who listen and act on what they hear.
 - Support the community, voluntary and private sectors to have a more active role in local leadership.
 - Develop and implement effective performance management to measure and demonstrate our progress.
 - Communicate clearly about how we make decisions and what we have been working on and achieved.
7. Having agreed the sustainable community strategy the new LSP Management Group is developing the detailed action plan to ensure delivery of the priorities. The county council is involved in this process as it is critical that appropriate targets are set.
 8. Councillor Michael Waine has recently become a member of the Cherwell LSP board as the county council's representative. Sally Taylor, Head of North

Area Children, Young People & Families Directorate is the county council representative on the partnership management group.

Implications

9. The County Council has a duty to develop and lead the Oxfordshire Partnership, develop a sustainable community strategy and the Local Area Agreement. In doing so it is making a commitment to delivering on the targets for which it is partly or largely responsible.
10. Equality and inclusion is at the heart of the district strategy with particular emphasis on access to services and breaking the cycle of deprivation.
11. The Cherwell sustainable community strategy aims to ensure sustainability within communities in Cherwell and is complementary to *Oxfordshire 2030*, the countywide vision.
12. There are not considered to be any significant risks to the county council in approving these strategies as targets align well with existing service delivery.

RECOMMENDATION

13. **The Cabinet is RECOMMENDED to endorse the Cherwell sustainable community strategy and commit its support to delivery of the priorities identified.**

PAUL JAMES
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Background papers: Cherwell Sustainable Community Strategy 'Our district, our future'

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