

## **CABINET**

**30 MARCH 2010**

### **MEDWAY SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY 2010-2026 (POLICY FRAMEWORK)**

#### **ADDENDUM REPORT**

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Janice Bamber, Customer First and Corporate Services

Report from: Neil Davies, Chief Executive

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Stephanie Goad, Assistant Director, Communications, Performance and Partnerships

#### **Summary**

This report updates Cabinet on the outcome of the Rapid Sustainability Appraisal of the Sustainable Community Strategy and the consideration of the strategy by the Local Strategic Partnership Board at its meeting on 23 March 2010.

#### **1. Rapid Sustainability Appraisal**

- 1.1 Although not a statutory or a council requirement, a Rapid Sustainability Appraisal of the Sustainable Community Strategy has been carried out, according to good practice.
- 1.2 A Rapid Sustainability Appraisal is a way of assessing the sustainability of community strategies, which can make them more sustainable and robust without the need to carry out a full formal appraisal. In this context 'sustainability' is defined as in terms of economic, social and environmental sustainability. The exercise endorsed the overall approach to sustainability within the strategy, but identified minor changes of emphasis to a few of the strategy's actions. The appraisal is attached and it is recommended that the SCS be amended to take account of the recommendations of the Rapid Sustainability Appraisal Group in the following ways:
  - Expanding the action to reduce carbon emissions to include improving air quality (page 19)

- Amend the action referring to increasing the use of “renewable” energy to “sustainable” energy (page19)
- Expand the action to raise awareness of and assist in reducing water wastage to include encouragement of reduced water consumption (page 19)
- Expand the sustainability key principle to include reference to behaviour change in the sustainable use of resources, to applying integrated land use principles to new development and to cover access to all services not just leisure services (page 26).

## **2. Local Strategic Partnership Board**

- 2.1 The Local Strategic Partnership Board considered the Sustainable Community Strategy on 23 March 2010, after the despatch of the Cabinet agenda.
- 2.2 The Board approved the SCS and its strap line subject to the detailed amendments arising from the Rapid Sustainability Appraisal and the following:
- Amend references to teenage pregnancy to take account of recent reductions (pages 4, 11 and 12)
  - Delete action to “encourage social interaction by for example providing services at satellite locations such as libraries” because it is covered by the previous action (page 15)
  - Amend “Resources to deliver” section to include reference to value for money (page 27)

## **3. Recommendation**

- 3.1 That Cabinet recommend to Council the Sustainable Community Strategy, as set out at Appendix A of the main report, and the Action Plan, as set out at Appendix C of the main report, subject to the Assistant Director, Communications, Performance and Partnerships being delegated authority to amend these documents to reflect the recommendations arising from the Rapid Sustainability Appraisal and the Local Strategic Partnership Board, as set out in the addendum report.

### **Lead Officer Contact**

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## RAPID SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL OF THE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY

OBJECTIVES	SCS RESPONSE	RSA PROPOSAL
1. Conserve and enhance the diversity and abundance of habitats and species	Principle refers to “conserving the diversity of habitat” Action “to conserve and enhance diversity etc”	The group agreed the SCS response but considered that the proposed action applied more to the “open space” priority of the SCS than the “climate change” priority.
2. Reduce air pollution and improve air quality	Action “to reduce carbon emission from Medway area including domestic, business and transport emissions	The group agreed the SCS response subject to reference to” improving our air quality” in the action and considered that the proposed action applied to health improvement as well as climate change mitigation.
3. Maintain and improve quality of ground and surface water and security of supply	Action “to raise awareness of and assist in reducing water wastage”	It was considered that the action should also be to encourage behaviour change in respect of water consumption as well as reducing water wastage.
4. Reduce risk of flooding and ensure flood resilience of buildings	Sustainability Key Principle refers to “ensuring development takes place within environmental limits”	It was considered that the wording of the sustainability key principle should be amended to read: “ensuring development takes place taking account of environmental constraints and applying appropriate infrastructure measures to further development”

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5. Reduce ecological footprint through prudent use of natural resources, reduction in waste and sustainable waste management practices	Sustainability key principle refers to “reducing waste and increasing energy efficiency” and actions about installing energy efficiency measures in housing and increasing use of renewable energy Have an Ecological Footprint indicator	It was considered that the sustainability key principle should be extended to include reference to encouraging behaviour change about the sustainable use of resources.
6. Provide opportunity for everyone to live in a decent sustainable, constructed affordable home suitable to their needs	Sustainability key principle refers to this and actions to provide affordable homes	No housing representative present but the SCS clearly addresses these issues
7. Maximise land use efficiency through appropriate use of previously developed and existing buildings	Sustainability Key principle refers to building on brownfield land	SCS response agreed.
8. Improve health and well being of the population and reduce health inequalities	Covered by ambition to improve health and well being	No health representative present but the SCS clearly addresses these issues
9. Reduce inequalities in poverty and social exclusion	Covered by ambition to improve health and well being and young people ambition	No social regeneration representative present but the SCS clearly addresses these issues
10. Reduce crime and perception of crime	Covered by priority to reduce incidence and fear of crime.	No community safety representative present but the SCS clearly addresses these issues
11.Improve accessibility to key services and facilities	Sustainability key principle refers to “improving access to leisure facilities”	The group considered that the sustainability key principle should be expanded to cover access to all services not just leisure services. It was noted that actions under transport and connectivity also address this issue.
12.Conserve and enhance historic buildings etc and increase community	Covered by priority “to improve range and quality of cultural sporting and heritage	No representative from historic buildings etc but the SCS clearly addresses these

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engagement with all sections of the community	facilities”	issues.
13. Increase energy efficiency, the proportion of energy generated from renewable resources and the diversity and security of energy suppliers	Covered by actions “to reduce carbon emissions and Improve energy efficiency of both new and existing housing by working with the community” and to increase use of renewable energy and investigate use of district heating schemes”	The group considered that the action “to increase the use of renewable energy and investigate the use of district heating schemes” should be amended to “sustainable” energy and “decentralised” heating schemes.
14.Reduce traffic and congestion by reducing need to travel and improving travel choice	Covered by priority to improve transport and connectivity	The group considered that the objective to reduce traffic is probably unrealistic but that nevertheless the sustainability key principle should include reference to applying integrated land use principles to new development to minimise the need to travel.
15. Raise educational achievements through developing opportunities to acquire skills, to develop and maintain workforce	Covered by priorities to develop skills to meet employer needs and to improve achievement at key stage 2	No education representative present but the SCS clearly addresses these issues
16.Support and improve employment and economic competitiveness in town centres and deprived areas	Covered by priorities to increase the Number, range and quality of jobs and action to develop social enterprise	No economic development representative present but the SCS clearly addresses these issues.