

Chichester District Council

CABINET

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Chichester in Partnership – Community Strategy 2016-2021

1. Contacts

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2. Recommendation

- 2.1. **That the Council be recommended to adopt the Community Strategy 2016-2021.**
- 2.2. **That consideration is given to the recommendation from Overview and Scrutiny Committee to establish an emergency fund for Chichester in Partnership for the period 2016-2021 as set out at paragraph 4.4.**

3. Background

- 3.1. Chichester in Partnership (CIP) was formed as a Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) in 2002. The Local Government Act 2000 placed a duty on local authorities to prepare a Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) to promote and improve the economic, social and environmental well-being of their areas, and contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. It was expected that this would happen *through* LSPs. In 2006 the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Bill considered Local Strategic Partnerships as the overarching partnership to bring together key themes and deliver the priorities in the Local Area Agreement and Sustainable Community Strategy. The Creating Strong, Safe and Prosperous Communities Guidance in 2008 also provided an impetus for working in Local Strategic Partnerships.
- 3.2. The statutory guidance (*Creating Strong, Safe and Prosperous Communities*) that governed LSP's was rescinded by Government in 2012. Government also revoked the Duty to Involve and the Duty to Prepare a Sustainable Community Strategy in 2014. Therefore there is no legal obligation for the Council to have an LSP or a Sustainable Community Strategy. However, Chichester in Partnership's current SCS is a 20 year document and still in place until 2026. This document was published in 2009 and developed via a full public consultation that involved focus groups, citizen's panels, questionnaires and special themed events. The delivery of this strategy is the main ethos of the partnership and has influence over partners' service delivery and priority setting.

- 3.3. Although current government thinking may appear to place less emphasis on formalised local partnership arrangements, they still see collaboration and joint working as a key part of the national agenda on health reform, policing, and economic development. Support for the Localism and Devolution agenda remains. It is therefore considered good practice to maintain ways to encourage partner conversation and collaboration.
- 3.4. Over the years Chichester in Partnership has changed and developed. Partners have completed a number of reviews to ensure it is fit for purpose. The most recent review was in 2015. Partners raised interesting points such as:
- That this is the only meeting where strategic level people meet locally
 - Good place to discuss and debate the local issues
 - It adds to the knowledge base of organisations and strategic individuals
 - Only place that some partners get to meet
 - Wider meetings are highly valued for information and networking
 - Partners are positive about the partnership and the projects it has been able to deliver in recent years.

However, there were improvements to be made in specific areas such as:

- Setting a clearer vision and aims for the partnership
 - Improving communication between meetings and about the projects
 - Increasing strategic partner involvement
 - Improving strategic links within organisations
- 3.5. In recent years the partnership has become more focussed, with action plans and strategies being developed, priorities set, outcomes planned and projects delivered. The partnership now enables work to happen on cross cutting issues that can be integrated into partner plans (for example the Getting People into Work strategy). With the deep funding cuts that all partners face, there could be a tendency for partners to move away from the partnership to protect themselves. In some areas such as Horsham, Crawley, Havant and Gosport the LSPs have ceased or amalgamated with other partnerships. In Chichester the opposite is happening, partners are more engaged, and new partners including Chichester College, Festival Theatre, Department of Work And Pensions and Councillors from WSCC are participating.

4. Proposal

- 4.1. It was felt by the current partners that the Sustainable Community Strategy had become dated and did not reflect the work or ethos of the partnership or provide a clear vision. In December 2015 partners agreed to complete a light touch review consisting of consultation with the core and wider partnership and the development of a document that would include a new vision statement but would keep the same overarching themes of Economy; Environment; Health And Wellbeing; Housing And Neighbourhoods and Transport and Access as the original SCS.
- 4.2. The partners iterated their preferences for the new strategy as follows:
- (a) A document that accurately reflects the work of the partnership

- (b) An easy to read document with no jargon
- (c) Shorter document with fewer priorities

On this basis a new Community Strategy was drafted and approved by the partnership core group on 22 March 2016 (see Appendix).

- 4.3. All partners have been asked to take this through their own internal approval processes to ensure ownership and support.
- 4.4. The final draft Community strategy was reviewed by Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 14 June 2016 and recommended to Cabinet that it be endorsed and adopted by the council. They made a further recommendation: "That consideration is given to establishing an emergency fund for Chichester in Partnership for the period 2016-2021 to ensure its ability to function in times of hardship."
- 4.5. Currently Chichester in Partnership has no recurring budget except a small annual grant pot of £5000 from merger with the Healthy Chichester Partnership that is ring fenced for Health projects.

5. Outcomes to be achieved

- 5.1. The overall vision for the partnership, agreed by the Core group is: "*Chichester in Partnership – Working together to help and inspire the people, and communities within Chichester District to reach their potential*"
- 5.2. The original strategy had 21 priorities with 51 sub priorities. The new strategy has 16 priorities. The overall delivery of the strategy will be monitored by the CIP via their annual report.
- 5.3. Delivery on the outcomes will take place through task and finish groups set up under the partnership. These groups will be expected to develop and deliver sub-strategies and action plans on specific issues. Currently the task and finish groups have been established in respect of:
 - (a) Low level mental health
 - (b) Getting people into work
 - (c) Tackling financial exclusion
- 5.4. The work of the partnership will also be monitored internally by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

6. Alternatives that have been considered

- 6.1. Do nothing – the current strategy remains in place until 2026.
- 6.2. Full consultation – To devise a new strategy through a full consultation would be expensive, time consuming and divert effort from project delivery.
- 6.3. Have no Community Strategy – we have no legal obligation to have such a document; however the partners feel the partnership and partners need a document that sets out the issues, agreed vision and direction to help focus their work and that of the partnership.

7. Resource and legal implications

- 7.1. Partnerships Officer time in managing delivery of partnership meetings and projects. Other Council teams may get involved in projects as needed.
- 7.2. The Community Strategy provides the local social context for the Local and Corporate Plans and review will ensure a relevant and contemporary context.
- 7.3. The recommendation by Overview and Scrutiny Committee to “establish an emergency fund for Chichester in Partnership for the period 2016-2021” will impact on the Council’s budget.

8. Consultation

- 8.1. A wider partnership event attended by a range of partners was held with a speaker from the Department of Communities and Local Government and a workshop exercise to discuss the priorities. The issues from the workshops were taken into account when drafting the Community Strategy.
- 8.2. The Strategy was sent to partners for comment, and feedback incorporated.

9. Community impact and corporate risks

- 9.1. The Strategy sets out the high level priorities and objectives for the area and the needs of the community. Consultation with a wide range of groups has taken place and a full analysis of demographics has been undertaken. Further impact assessments will need to be undertaken at the action plan stage.
- 9.2. The Strategy will encourage and provide focus for partnership working.

10. Other Implications

	Yes	No
Crime & Disorder: positive	✓	
Climate Change: positive	✓	
Human Rights and Equality Impact: positive	✓	
Safeguarding and Early Help: positive	✓	
Other (Please specify): eg Biodiversity		✓

11. Appendix

- 11.1. Appendix Chichester In Partnership Community Strategy 2016 -2021 (printed in black and white; available in colour on the Council’s website)

12. Background Papers

- 12.1 Chichester in Partnership Annual Report 2015 -2016