

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL**CABINET**
22nd JANUARY 2009**Worcestershire Sustainable Community Strategy 2nd Edition 2008-2013**

OPEN	
COMMUNITY STRATEGY THEME:	All
CORPORATE PLAN THEME:	All
KEY PRIORITY:	All
CABINET MEMBER:	John Campion
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APPENDICES	Worcestershire Sustainable Community Strategy 2nd Edition 2008-2013 <i>Circulated electronically. Copy available on Council's website.</i>

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek the endorsement by Wyre Forest District Council of the revised Sustainable Community Strategy for Worcestershire, which was formally approved by Worcestershire County Council in September 2008.

2. RECOMMENDATION

The Cabinet is asked to RECOMMEND to Council that:

- 2.1 The revised Sustainable Community Strategy for Worcestershire is endorsed**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Worcestershire Sustainable Community Strategy sets out the overarching, strategic vision and priorities of the county, with the aim of improving the quality of life of people who visit, work or live in Worcestershire. It is produced by the Worcestershire Partnership, the Local Strategic Partnership at County level, and delivered through the Local Area Agreement and other delivery plans.
- 3.2 The first Worcestershire Community Strategy was produced by the Worcestershire Partnership in 2003. However, in 2007, it was agreed that the document should be refreshed in order to reflect a number of changes since the first edition, including the introduction of the Local Area Agreement (LAA), the revision of district Community Strategies. There were also new challenges such as climate change and the increasing number of migrant workers arriving in the county.

- 3.3 The second edition was drafted during the latter half of 2007, taking into consideration priorities identified by each of the district LSPs and county level theme groups. Also considered were national and regional priorities and the priorities of residents, expressed through the Citizens Panel and the Best Value General Satisfaction Survey. The draft strategy was subject to a twelve-week consultation from November 2007 to February 2008. Over 40 comprehensive responses were received from individuals and organisations, including Wyre Forest District Council, Wyre Forest Matters, Oldington & Foley Park Pathfinder and Chaddesley Corbett Parish Council. The strategy was subsequently redrafted in liaison with the partnership's theme groups and partners and the final version is available on the Worcestershire Partnership website. In addition, a short guide has now been published and disseminated.

4. KEY ISSUES

- 4.1 The statutory guidance for the production of the Sustainable Community Strategy requires the top-tier authority (e.g. Worcestershire County Council) to formally accept the strategy at its full council. This took place on 11th September 2008.
- 4.2 However, the strategy is a partnership document and the endorsement of all member organisations of the Worcestershire Partnership is required. Due to timescale restrictions, it was not possible for all partners to take the strategy through their own approval processes before it was formally accepted by the County Council without delaying the process for an unacceptable length of time. Whilst this is not an ideal situation, it was felt that the lengthy consultation process and regular reporting of progress to the Worcestershire Partnership Board would allow issues that might cause difficulties for the endorsement of the strategy by partners to have been addressed well in advance. The Leader and Chief Executive of each District Council and Chair of each district LSP have a place on the Worcestershire Partnership Board.
- 4.3 As such, the Partnership agreed that the revised strategy should be endorsed by partners as soon as possible, either before or after the formal acceptance by the County Council.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no financial implications for Wyre Forest District Council. All costs incurred by the process have been met by the Worcestershire Partnership and Worcestershire County Council.

6. LEGAL AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 All local authorities have a statutory duty to prepare a Sustainable Community Strategy for their area, through its Local Strategic Partnership.
- 6.2 The Worcestershire Sustainable Community Strategy is the overarching strategy for the county and sets the vision and priorities for many partner plans and strategies, including the Worcestershire County Council Corporate Plan. The second edition was developed in such a way that, as far as possible, it reflects the Sustainable Community Strategies from each of the six district LSPs in Worcestershire and sets the priorities to be delivered by the Local Area Agreement.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

7.1 There are no risks identified as being associated with this report.

8. CONCLUSION

8.1 The Sustainable Community Strategy for Worcestershire is an important document in terms of its setting out of a vision for the county and priorities for delivery through the Local Area Agreement. It is vital that the partners that make up the Worcestershire Partnership share these vision and priorities and endorse the revised version of the strategy.

9. CONSULTEES

9.1 The draft Sustainable Community Strategy was subject to a twelve-week public consultation period, launched at the Worcestershire Assembly on 22nd November 2007. Over 40 comprehensive responses were received from individuals and organisations, including Wyre Forest District Council, Wyre Forest Matters, Oldington & Foley Park Pathfinder and Chaddesley Corbett Parish Council.

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1 'Partnership Towards Excellence: The Sustainable Community Strategy for Worcestershire. Second Edition 2008-2013'. Available from:
<http://www.worcestershirepartnership.org.uk/home/index/wp-strat/wp-strat-countywide.htm>