

COMMUNITY STRATEGY & NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL STRATEGY

Report by Partnership Support Team

Item for Decision

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To update the Board on the progress of the preparation of the revised Community Strategy & Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy and to agree the revised Strategy, *Hartlepool's Ambition*, (Appendix 1) as a second draft on which a Strategic Environmental Assessment will be carried out.

2.0 LINKS TO THE COMMUNITY STRATEGY

- 2.1 The revised Community Strategy & Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy will, following adoption, provide a new strategic policy framework for Hartlepool.

3.0 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 In June 2001, the Hartlepool Partnership published a draft Community Strategy. Wide-ranging consultation was carried out on this draft before the final version was agreed by the Board in April 2002. The Strategy set out a timetable for a full review within 5 years.
- 3.2 In February 2006, Board Members agreed a timetable for review. The first phase of the review, pre-consultation, was launched on 5th May and concluded in July 2006. The second phase, consultation on the first draft, ran from September to 17th November 2006.
- 3.3 In January 2007, the Board agreed a revised timetable for the next stages of the review taking into account the requirements of the European Directive 2001/42/EC. This requires assessments for plans which “set a framework for future development consent of projects”, “determine the use of small areas at a local level” or which “are minor modifications to plans only where they are determined to be likely to have a significant environmental effect.
- 3.4 This revised timetable established that work on preparing an Environmental Report will take place during April and May. It is anticipated that a third draft Strategy will be available for consultation in September 2007, leading to adoption of new the Community Strategy in December 2007.

4.0 PROGRESS TO DATE

4.1 The 1st draft of a revised Community Strategy & Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy was published in September 2006. The Strategy built on the 2002 Strategy and set out a revised policy framework for Hartlepool. A wide range of responses were received as part of this consultation including feedback from residents, Theme Partnerships, public bodies and statutory consultees. The results of this consultation have guided the preparation of this second draft.

4.2 The consultation showed broad support for the Strategy and support for the vision was high at over 90%. Where there was disagreement with the vision, feedback included:

- Readability – views that the vision was too long, wordy and difficult to remember
- Deliverable – was the vision achievable in the timescale?
- Reference to specific areas of service delivery e.g. more police, environmental quality, development of specific skill sectors.

4.3 In relation to the Priority Aims, respondents were asked what if any improvements or changes they would make. Here a broad range of comments were received, both in relation to the Aims of the Community Strategy and the Issues and Priorities of the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy.

5.0 APPRAISALS

5.1 The first draft set out the intention to carry out a number of appraisals on the draft strategy. These would highlight practical ways to enhance the positive aspects of the Strategy and seek to remove or minimise any negative impacts. The appraisals outlined were:

- Sustainability Appraisal
- Strategic Environmental Assessment (2001/42/EC)
- Health Impact Assessment
- Section 17
- Rural Proofing
- Diversity Impact Assessment.

5.2 It is now proposed that these appraisals are carried out on this second draft.

6.0 RECOMMENDATION

6.1 *The Board is requested to agree the second draft of the Community Strategy & Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy.*