

## SHROPSHIRE'S COMMUNITY STRATEGY 2010 – 2020: FINAL DOCUMENT FOR APPROVAL

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### Summary

This report outlines steps taken by the Shropshire Partnership team to develop a robust Community Strategy and presents a final document for approval, (hard copy supplied separately to this report ) entitled 'Shropshire's Community Strategy 2010-2020', and a 'Highlights' summary document, also supplied separately. These documents have already been supplied to Cabinet Members. A copy of the second round consultation responses received is attached as Appendix A.

### Recommendations

Full Council is asked recommend Shropshire's Community Strategy document and the Highlights document for approval, ahead of their consideration by the Shropshire Partnership Leadership Board on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2010.

## Report

### Background

- 1.1 The Shropshire Partnership has been developing its new Community Strategy since 2008. This work began with the development of an Evidence Base for Shropshire and initial scoping work with the Partnership's four blocks to identify key priority areas.
- 1.2 An initial round of consultation on the Strategy's vision and several proposed themes and cross-cutting issues took place between July and September 2009, aligning with LDF consultation on 'Policy Directions'. This consultation generated a large number of responses, and these were used to develop a new vision and sharply refine the original proposal of themes and cross-cutting issues into three key priorities, underpinned by sixteen aspirations.
- 1.3 A final draft document was drawn up and was launched at the Shropshire Partnership's Standing Conference in November 2009, together with the Evidence Base which remains unchanged. A second twelve-week round of consultation began on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2009 and ended on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2010.

## Findings from second round of consultation

- 2.1 The second round of consultation has generated a far lower response rate, with fewer than thirty submissions received. There is general consensus amongst these responses that the final draft document has managed to distil a multitude of issues into a useful, broad-ranging template for working. Responses raised a number of other points, including:
- The need for clarity about the mechanisms of partnership working in Shropshire and how the Community Strategy will be delivered
  - The need for real commitment from partners to adopt challenging climate change targets
  - The need to maintain strong links with the Local Development Framework (the spatial interpretation of the Community Strategy).
  - A perceived need for greater emphasis on preventative services
- 2.2 Respondee also expressed a desire to see the action plan for delivery developed soon, and offered a variety of suggestions of actions for inclusion. Work has already commenced on this and will continue once the Community Strategy has been approved.

## Next steps

- 3.1 It is proposed that the Community Strategy be approved unchanged from that which was consulted on (other than having a new front cover image) as the points raised above relate to the processes around its delivery, rather than its content.
- 3.2 Leadership Board partners have identified that the Partnership needs to develop a radical approach to changing times by being more efficient and being realistic about the financial constraints that we face. Issues include:
- Refocusing improvement effort to those Community Strategy priorities which are of wider relevance than the current Local Area Agreement.
  - The need for more effective data sharing / establishment of a joint research and information resource across the Partnership
  - Pooling of resources (i.e. financial, staff, management arrangements, buildings and facilities)
  - Revisiting the existing delivery arrangements in the LSP structure, particularly the Block structure which can act as a barrier to cross-cutting work across theme areas
- 3.2 Leadership Board partners need to give a clear steer on which of the 16 outcomes will be focussed on in the short, medium and long term in order to develop a Community Strategy delivery plan, which should be ready by June 2010. Initial scoping has indicated a need for the Shropshire Partnership to work differently, and focus in particular on several key areas:
- An integrated approach to Offender Management
  - Joined up working around safeguarding vulnerable individuals and around worklessness
  - Multi-agency delivery mechanisms and integrated working practices, including co-location of services
  - Recognition of the importance of the voluntary and community sector in their work with more vulnerable individuals and communities.
- 3.3 The Shropshire Partnership Evidence base will undergo a mini-update in 2011 to incorporate customer insight research, the addition of a Joint Strategic Needs

Assessment supplement, and to capture the results of the 2010 Place Survey. A major update will take place in 2013 after results of 2011 Census are made available.

**List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)**

SCS consultation report to CMT -15<sup>th</sup> June 2009  
SCS Progress Update CMT – 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2009

**Human Rights Act Appraisal**

The recommendations contained in this report are compatible with the Human Rights Act 1998. An equalities appraisal has been undertaken during the document's development.

**Environmental Appraisal**

Due consideration has been given and a sustainability appraisal has been undertaken during the document's development

**Risk Management Appraisal**

Risk management issues have been considered in preparing the Community Strategy and this report

**Community / Consultations Appraisal**

A series of wide ranging consultations have been undertaken in developing the Community Strategy

**Cabinet Member**

Gwilym Butler

**Local Member**

All

**Appendices**

Shropshire's Community Strategy 2010-20 – supplied separately as a glossy document

Shropshire's Community Strategy Highlights document – supplied separately as glossy document

Appendix A - Consultation responses received Nov 09- Feb 10