

## REPORT TO CABINET – TUESDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> MARCH

### Leicestershire Community Strategy

### REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

#### PART A

##### Purpose of Report

1. To allow Cabinet to agree the revised Leicestershire Community Strategy, prior to its consideration by full Council on March 23rd.

##### Recommendation

2. That Cabinet agrees to recommend that the County Council approves the Leicestershire Community Strategy, attached as Appendix 1.

##### Reason for Recommendation

3. To allow the revised Leicestershire Community Strategy, which forms part of the Council's plan framework, to be approved.
4. The process of reviewing the Leicestershire Community Strategy was undertaken between June and December 2004. The purpose of the review was to update the information contained within the strategy, 'tighten up' and prioritise the actions, and report on actions that have been completed. There are also a small number of additional actions in the document which address revised community priorities.

##### Timetable for Decisions and Scrutiny

Scrutiny Commission: Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March

Cabinet Meeting: Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> March

County Council: Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March

##### Circulation under Sensitive Issues Procedure

5. None.

##### Officer to Contact

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## **PART B**

### **Background**

6. The Leicestershire Community Strategy was published in July 2003 following two rounds of consultation. Since then, the focus of Leicestershire Together, the Local Strategic Partnership for the county, has been on implementing the actions contained within the Strategy.
7. It was agreed that a review should be undertaken a year after publication of the Strategy to check that the actions in the Strategy still address community priorities, assess progress against actions and to update the Strategy in light of recent changes in national policy, including the emphasis on Children's Services. The purpose of the review was also to update the information contained within the strategy, 'tighten up' and prioritise the actions and report back on actions that have been completed.
8. A range of consultation activities/data have informed the review of the Leicestershire Community Strategy, as follows;
  - A Quality of Life questionnaire sent to the 'Citizens Panel' in May 2004
  - Focus groups held in June 2004
  - Information from the Indices of Deprivation
  - Census Data used to update contextual information contained within the strategy
  - A Rural Proofing and Sustainability Appraisal in December 2004
  - An "Equalities Check" of the Strategy
9. A summary of the consultation responses is attached.
10. In addition, all actions have been assessed to ensure that they are SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, and Timely) and all actions will have a Lead Agency which will be responsible for the action, including the provision of monitoring reports.
11. The actions in the Strategy have been divided into three groups:
  - priority actions, which address community priorities and/or that will be delivered by Leicestershire Together
  - actions that will be delivered by other partnerships
  - other actions

12. This will allow the priorities for the Leicestershire Together Board to be more easily identified. A summary leaflet, which only includes the priority/Leicestershire Together actions will be published alongside the Community Strategy.
13. Both Leicestershire Together partners and County Council departments have been involved in the development of new and existing actions and a time-limited sub-group of the Board was set up to act as a sounding board for the Annual Review of the Strategy - they have agreed this final version on behalf of the Board.
14. The published document will be in the same format as the original Community Strategy i.e. A5 with photographs.

### **Conclusion**

15. The revised Strategy has been updated to reflect community priorities, and reformatted to highlight these revised priorities. Progress against actions in the strategy will be reported to the Leicestershire Together Board every six months and a further full review is planned for 2006.

### **List of Appendices**

**Appendix 1** – The reviewed Leicestershire Community Strategy - all changes to the document have been highlighted in **BOLD** text.

**Appendix 2** – A summary of consultation Activity and Data