

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2006/2007 REPORT NO. 243A

MEETING TITLE AND DATE:

Full Council – 28th March 2007

REPORT OF:

Ann Pennell
Director of Performance,
Partnership and Policy

Agenda – Part: 1	Item: 10
Subject: <i>Enfield's Future A Sustainable Community Strategy for Enfield 2007-2017</i>	
Wards: All	
Members consulted: Cabinet (including Councillors Michael Rye, John Jackson and Paul McCannah)	

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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report requests that full Council considers the ESP's revised Community Strategy's visions and strategic objectives and endorses the way forward for agreeing the Strategy.

The report explains the context for preparing the Community Strategy, the consultation process undertaken and sets out the ESP's visions and strategic objectives.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 To approve the Community Strategy's visions and strategic objectives as set out in Appendix A of the report.
- 2.2 To endorse the way forward for agreeing the Strategy.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 'Enfield's Future' the Community Strategy 2003-06 has been reviewed. The Strategy was first agreed in 2003 and the fifteen 3-year aims now need to be revised. The new Community Strategy sets out a 10-year vision, from 2007-2017, and outlines the priorities for action over the next two years.

3.2 The revised Community Strategy has been developed through an extensive consultation process and has regard to all relevant Council and partner strategies and plans.

Consultation has included the following:

- All ESP Thematic Action Group workshop
- Enfield Community Empowerment Network workshop
- Enfield Matters community consultation event – workshops, questionnaires, young person's session
- Citizens Panel Survey
- Interviews with partners and key stakeholders
- Public consultation drop-in session
- Working group meetings consisting of key partners
- Reports to ESP Management Group
- Reports to ESP Board
- Reports to Corporate Management Board
- Reports to Cabinet

3.3 The Community Strategy has been developed in context of current guidance so we fulfil legislative and statutory government requirements.

In accordance with advice from the Corporate Management Board (CMB), the ESP has given consideration to a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and/or a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) being undertaken in relation to the Community Strategy.

Following the consideration of relevant guidance, consultation with the Council's Planning and Transportation department, advice from Government Office for London (GOL) and the Council's legal department, senior Council officers have concluded that neither a SEA nor SA is required in this instance.

Advice from Legal Counsel has been sought to ensure the Community Strategy makes the appropriate links to the emerging LDF documents. An Independent Planning Inspector will examine the LDF's core strategy and will be looking for sound and explicit links within the Core Strategy to the Community Strategy in order to accept it.

3.4 The ESP has been working closely with the Council to ensure the Community Strategy has strong links with the Local Area Agreement, Local Development Framework (LDF), and the forthcoming strategies Shaping Enfield's Future and Shaping Enfield's Communities and the Community Cohesion Strategy. These form part of the delivery framework for the ESP's Community Strategy.

- 3.5 Cabinet agreed the draft Community Strategy's vision and strategic objectives on 1st November 2006.

At the ESP Board meeting in December 2006, the meeting advised that further consultation should take place to ensure the Strategy is fit for purpose and addresses the needs of the partnership. As a result there has been some rewording of the visions and objectives to ensure consistency, however the meanings remain inherently unchanged.

In light of feedback arising from this consultation the following amendments have been made and were considered by Cabinet on 22nd March 2007:

- The Safer and Stronger Communities section of the Strategy has been strengthened to reflect priorities set out in the recently published National Community Safety Plan.
- The vision for the Economic Development and Enterprise section has been amended to be aligned with and better reflect the Community Strategy's overall vision.
- The vision for the Healthier Communities section has had an explanatory line added to it, which expands on the vision.
- The Older People section has been extended to include its own vision and additional objectives.

- 3.4 The ESP Board has given the ESP Management Group (the ESP Board's Executive group consisting of senior Council officers and partners) delegated responsibility to sign off the Strategy on its behalf. The Management Group on 2nd March signed off the body of the Strategy.

- 3.5 A review of the Community Strategy's Action Plan is currently underway to ensure it is SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, timely).

- 3.6 The attached Appendix A outlines the ESP's visions and strategic objectives for the new Sustainable Community Strategy 'Enfield's Future' 2007 – 2017.

4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

As previously stated above there is a duty on the Council to produce a Community Strategy, further the current Strategy's 15 3-year aims are now due for review and renewal.

5. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

To gain agreement to the overall vision and strategic objectives that will form part of Enfield's new Community Strategy and endorse the way forward for agreeing the Strategy.

6. COMMENTS OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND CORPORATE RESOURCES AND OTHER DEPARTMENTS

6.1 Financial Implications:

There are no financial implications that specifically relate to the proposals described in this report.

6.2 Legal Implications:

Local Government Act 2000 requires all local authorities to have a Community Strategy for promoting or improving the economic, social or environmental well-being of their area and contributing to the achievement of sustainable development. Appropriate consultation must be carried out in developing the strategy. It is particularly important to have a clear and well-crafted strategy in place, as the "well-being" powers in Section 2 of the same Act (giving powers for local authorities to do anything that they consider likely to promote or improve the economic, social or environmental well-being of their area) may only be exercised having regard to the Community Strategy. The approval of full Council requested in this report is a necessary step in developing and adopting the Strategy.

6.3 Property Implications

The Community Strategy as it evolves is linked with the Property Strategy, Asset Management Plan, Area and Service reviews as they progress with our partners. Specific property opportunities/implications will present themselves for Member consideration at future meetings.

7 PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

The Council, as the accountable body for the ESP, has a 10-year Community Strategy in place, which needs to be reviewed after 2 years. The revised Community Strategy will form a strategic part of the Council's Performance Management Framework and links its objectives in improving the social, economic and physical well-being of Enfield to the Council's corporate strategy 'Putting Enfield First'.

8 PUTTING ENFIELD FIRST

Government expects that the objectives of Local Strategic Partnerships and the priorities set out in Community Strategies will be integrated into partner agencies' objectives and priorities. The process of developing a Community Strategy for Enfield has both informed, and been informed by, the Council's corporate strategy, '*Putting Enfield First.*' The two documents link in a number of ways:

- The aims of the Council's corporate strategy and the challenges set out in the Community Strategy's overall vision and objectives cover broadly similar themes in terms of the environment, strong communities, lifelong learning, community safety, employment and enterprise, cultural activity, and improving infrastructure and public services.

Background Papers

Local Strategic Partnerships: Shaping their Future. A consultation paper

Strong and Prosperous Communities, White Paper, October 2006

Planning Together – Local Strategic Partnerships and Spatial Planning; a practical guide, January 2007

Enfield's Local Area Agreement '*Every Child Really Does Matter*'

Enfield's Future A Sustainable Community Strategy for Enfield 2007-2017

Shaping Enfield's Future Cabinet Report, January 2007