

Report to: **East Sussex Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC)**

Date: **30 November 2007**

By: **Director of Policy & Communication**

Title of report: **East Sussex Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS)**

Purpose of report: **To inform HOSC of the development of the new East Sussex Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS)**

RECOMMENDATION: That the Committee considers and comments on the draft Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS).

1. Background

1.1 Since the Local Government Act 2000 there has been a duty on local authorities to develop a community strategy for their area to address economic, social and environmental well being. In 2003 the East Sussex Strategic Partnership (ESSP) published our current community strategy for East Sussex known as 'Pride of Place'. In East Sussex the Local Area Agreement (LAA) (now in its second year) captures agreed priorities for joint working between partners and forms the action plan for the Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS).

1.2 The new Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act places a new additional duty on local authorities to prepare the LAA in consultation with others and expects a new LAA to be in place by June 2008. The framework for the new LAA is a new set of 198 "national indicators" from which East Sussex and the Government will agree up to 35 areas for improvement plus 16 mandatory indicators relating to children, schools and families.

2. Proposed East Sussex Approach

2.1 The original 'Pride of Place' community strategy needs to be revised as its three years action planning cycle ends shortly. The new SCS needs to address a range of environmental and spatial issues as well as being updated to reflect other emerging local issues. An agreement has been reached across East Sussex to have a joint SCS with Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs) with Councils and other partners, including health organisations. It will include the District and Borough based strategies. For some districts the new SCS will be their only community strategy, for others the priorities within their existing strategies are being incorporated into the new SCS but they will retain a separate document.

2.2 A partnership project team has developed a consultation draft which was published on 20 November for 12 weeks and is attached as separate document. It outlines a vision for East Sussex up to 2026 including significant current characteristics and priorities that need to be addressed in order to achieve the longer term vision. Before it is finally published in June 2008, it will be supported by a detailed evidence base and will demonstrate the link to other local and regional strategies. There will be two related action plans outlining the detailed targets for delivering the identified

priorities. The first will be the new LAA; the second will describe additional local targets that may not be suitable for inclusion in the LAA.

3. HOSC Involvement

3.1 HOSC will want to consider the draft SCS in the context of the Committee's remit on health and health service issues. Health organisations have been involved in the development of the draft SCS through the East Sussex Strategic Partnership and local LSPs and the strategy has been informed by the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment discussed elsewhere on this meeting's agenda.

3.2 The draft County sections of the SCS contain a section entitled 'Health and Wellbeing' to which HOSC may wish to pay particular attention. The strategy also contains sections on 'Older People' and 'Culture, Sports and Leisure' which contain particular references to health issues. However, many other aspects of the strategy have links to health, particularly in terms of addressing areas of deprivation. The Borough and District Chapters also contain extensive relevant references.

3.3 The SCS is intended to capture the shared strategic priorities for East Sussex, rather than detailed and specific actions (which will follow through the LAA and the contributions of specific organisations to this). Therefore, HOSC will wish to consider whether strategic health priorities for East Sussex have been captured in the document.

3.4 All LSPs and each of the local Councils will need to endorse the final version of the SCS before publication at the end of May 2008.

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Local Members: All

Background Documents: None