



**NORTHAMPTON**  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

# COUNCIL

## 17 March 2008

**Agenda Status: Public**

**Directorate: Chief Executive**

<b>Report Title</b>	<b>Sustainable Communities Strategy for Northampton</b>
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### 1. Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to present to Council the final Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) for Northampton.

### 2. Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that Council adopts the Sustainable Communities Strategy for Northampton.

### 3. Report Background

- 3.1 The Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) was developed by the Northampton Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) and replaces the previous Community Strategy and Vision. The SCS contains a Community Vision to take Northampton forward to 2031. This Community Vision was developed following extensive consultation with Northampton stakeholders and local communities and was approved at Cabinet on the 29<sup>th</sup> January 2007.
- 3.2 The Sustainable Communities Strategy for Northampton was developed in response to the introduction of a new structure to the LSP and with regard to the Government white paper 'Vibrant Local Leadership'. The white paper, as well as discussing the role of councils' as local leaders, noted the Government's agreement that Community Strategies should become Sustainable Community Strategies. These new strategies would provide a long-term view and integrate social, economic and environmental priorities. These issues were further explored in the consultation paper 'Local Strategic Partnerships: shaping the future'.
- 3.3 In summary, the purpose of a SCS is to set the vision and priorities for Northampton agreed by all partners of the Northampton LSP including local people and communities, built on a solid evidence base. In addition, the targets of the strategy would contribute towards the delivery of the Local Area Agreement (LAA) outcomes.

- 3.4 It should be noted that as a district level LSP both the Northampton Partnership and its SCS should be fully considered and involved in the development of the Northamptonshire SCS and LAA, and conversely that the Northampton SCS should reflect Northamptonshire's LAA outcomes. This is particularly relevant given that the Northamptonshire SCS is currently being consulted upon.
- 3.5 In assisting the LSP in developing its SCS, liaison through county wide LSP network and the LAA officers has enabled the SCS to link with the LAA as far as is possible at this time.
- 3.6 In addition to the links between the Northamptonshire SCS and LAA, development of the Northampton SCS has regard to other local and regional plans, for example the relationship between the Northampton SCS and the Local Development Framework which makes sure that key spatial planning objectives are aligned. This has particular significance given the development aligned to the growth of the Milton Keynes South Midlands area.
- 3.7 The Council has a legal requirement to be part of the Northampton LSP and its SCS. However, in adopting the Northampton SCS, it should be noted that the process undertaken in partnership to produce the strategy demonstrates the added value in collaborative working to deliver outcomes locally on improved health, educational attainment, employment and a reduction in crime.
- 3.8 Cabinet considered the Sustainable Communities Strategy for Northampton at its meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> February and recommended the strategy to Council for adoption.

#### **4. Implications (including financial implications)**

##### **4.1 Resources and Risk**

There are currently no additional direct financial implications related with the adoption of the Northampton SCS however, it should be noted that the delivery of the priorities and LAA outcomes are contained within the Council's Corporate Plan and service plans which include the details of any associated resource implications and expenditure.

##### **4.2 Legal**

There is a legal requirement for Local Authorities to develop and produce a Sustainable Communities Strategy. The Council will meet its duty by endorsing the Northampton Sustainable Communities Strategy.

##### **4.3 Other Implications**

There are no specific equality and diversity issues associated with this report. The Community Vision contained within the Northampton SCS was developed on the basis of a full consultation process. The full SCS was consulted upon through each partner organisation, and the individual action plans.

#### **5. Background Papers**

- 5.1 The Local Government and Public Involvement In Health Bill, Bill 16 of 2006-07, Research Paper 07/01, 10<sup>th</sup> January 2007
- 5.2 ODPM, *Vibrant Local Leadership*, January 2005
- 5.3 ODPM, *Local Strategic Partnerships: shaping the future*, December 2005

- 5.4 Communities and Local Government, *Planning Together – Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs) and Spatial Planning: a practical guide*, January 2007
- 5.5 NBC Cabinet Report, *Draft Corporate Plan 2007-2010: Community Vision and Council Priorities*, 25<sup>th</sup> September 2006
- 5.6 NBC Cabinet Report, *Corporate Plan 2007/08-2011/12*, 29<sup>th</sup> January 2007
- 5.6.1 NBC Cabinet Report Sustainable Communities Strategy for Northampton, 11 February 2008

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