

Subject:
Consultation on Ambition Lancashire

Status: For Publication

Report to: The Cabinet

Date: 1st August 2007

Report of: Head of Community and Partnerships

Portfolio

Holder: Health and Wellbeing

Key Decision:

No

Forward Plan General Exception Special Urgency

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform members about the proposed refresh of Ambition Lancashire the Sustainable Communities Strategy for Lancashire.

2. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- 2.1 Ambition Lancashire Partnership is the Local Strategic Partnership for Lancashire's sustainable communities strategy for the whole of Lancashire. As such all of the issues within the strategy have the potential to impact on all of the work within the Borough.

3. RISK ASSESSMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 Failure to influence the development of the strategy could mean that Rossendale's voice is not heard at a county wide level and then at sub regional and regional partnerships.

4. BACKGROUND AND OPTIONS

"Ambition Lancashire", Lancashire's Community Strategy, was developed in 2004/5. Its development involved wide ranging consultation and a comprehensive analysis of the issues facing Lancashire. Ambition Lancashire was adopted by the Lancashire Partnership in 2005.

Ambition Lancashire sets out a Vision for Lancashire which is

“To position Lancashire by 2025 as an area of outstanding opportunity, combining a world-class economy with a breath-taking environment and exceptional communities.

Lancashire’s towns cities and rural areas maintain their separate identities but inter-dependence is strengthened through strong economic, social and environmental connections”

The document is divided into 13 chapters. Each sets out a subject specific vision. Collectively they set out a strategic vision for the future of Lancashire. Each chapter also contains a number of Ambitions that will enable us to achieve the Vision and each Ambition contains a series of actions that will help deliver the Ambition. Each chapter also identifies a number of headline targets

Why Revise It?

Although the document is only two years old the context in which Local Strategic Partnerships are now operating has changed and with it the status and relevance of the Community Strategy.

With the publication of the Local Government White Paper “Strong and Prosperous Communities” the Government has indicated an expectation that the relationship between local and central government should change and that this will be particularly reflected in the role of LSPs and the further development of Local Area Agreements (LAA).

Local Area Agreements will become more significant:

- All areas will have a new generation LAA in place by Autumn 2008
- LAAs will be the only place where central government will agree targets with Local Authorities and their partners on outcomes delivered by local councils on their own or in partnership with others
- A National indicator set of 200 will replaces all existing performance indicators
- LAA areas will agree 35 (+18 DfES) improvement targets from this list reflecting local priorities to form the core of the LAA
- All funding to councils outside the rate support grant will go through an unringfenced area LAA grant – no separation by blocks
- The Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) will be the area’s single vision and LAA the area’s single delivery plan
- There will be a duty on named LSP partners to co-operate in agreeing LAA targets and to have regard to meeting them

As the Sustainable Community Strategy will inform what is agreed through the Local Area Agreement it is essential that the Ambition Lancashire Strategy is right and the review process is intended to ensure that a revised Ambition Lancashire clearly sets out priorities for achieving the Vision and forms the basis for Lancashire negotiating LAA targets with central government.

The Community Strategy will not be a detailed action plan. The LAA will be a significant delivery tool for the Ambition Lancashire but there will also be other existing and yet to be developed action plans that will be needed to deliver the Vision as a whole and to address our local priorities.

In May the Lancashire Partnership held a conference and the broad outcomes of the conference are detailed below:

- many of the chapter and subject areas set out in Ambition Lancashire have clear links to other chapters, for example the Greener Lancashire workshop group identified the role of agriculture and the economy on the 'greener Lancashire' chapter, and the Safer Lancashire group recognised links between Supported Housing and people recovering from substance misuse. Other issues cut across different chapters, such as accessible services.
- As well as identifying subject areas that have strong connections, participants identified issues that if delivered in one geographical area affect neighbouring areas for example housing and transport projects.
- Some participants expressed a need to reduce the number of 'Actions' and concentrate on where the Partnership can make a real difference and add value to the existing delivery of services.
- Participants identified further actions to those already identified in Ambition Lancashire.
- Whilst recognising the role of Ambition Lancashire in setting strategic priorities for Lancashire, participants pointed out that any resulting actions would need to be delivered in a way that meets the differing needs of individual localities; therefore evidence of need and monitoring of performance would need to be locally sensitive to support local delivery of county priorities.
- Participants pointed to the need to make Ambition Lancashire SMART (Specific Measured Achievable Relevant and Timed) and to review actions over shorter time scales, to assess their relevance and gain a fuller picture of what we have and have not achieved and why.

Rossendale Borough Council and the Local Strategic Partnership have been invited to consider the following questions in relation to Ambition Lancashire:

- What does this vision mean for Rossendale
- Is it reflected as a priority in the district Sustainable Communities Strategy
- Has the district set targets in relation to this theme, what are they

- Can a county-wide approach help the district to achieve its targets

Overall

- What are the key strategic priorities for the district
- Are there any that are not reflected in the Ambition Lancashire chapters
- How can Ambition Lancashire add value to the district priorities
- Can the district achieve its priority outcomes more effectively by working with other districts, county or partners (in addition to those it already works with)

Rossendale Borough Council is clear about its strategic priorities for the Borough – these are articulated in our corporate plan as :

- Delivering quality services to our customers
- Delivering regeneration across the Borough
- Keeping the Borough clean and green
- Promoting Rossendale as a place to live and visit
- Improving health and well being across the Borough.

These priorities have been developed with and agreed by working with our partners and sense checked through consulting with the citizens panel. They are based on a robust baseline which clearly shows the need for these priorities.

The Council are asked to consider the remaining questions and to make recommendations to the consultation.

A member development session on 26th July will report verbally to the cabinet on its recommendations.

5. COMMENTS OF THE HEAD OF FINANCIAL SERVICES

- 5.1 Although there are no direct financial implications from the consultation process there could be potential future implications (particularly, inter alia, in relation to LAA funding) dependent on the alignment of the Councils priorities and those of “Ambition Lancashire”.

6. COMMENTS OF THE HEAD OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

- 6.1 There are no legal implications of this report

7. COMMENTS OF THE HEAD OF HUMAN RESOURCES

7.1 There are no human resources implications

8. CONCLUSION

8.1 Members have an opportunity to influence the Ambition Lancashire Strategy through this process and the Borough Council should seek to so do.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 The Cabinet are recommended to provide a response to the Lancashire Partnership in line with the members comments from 26th July meeting.

10. CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

10.1 Rossendale Partnership

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Background Papers	
Document	Place of Inspection
Ambition Lancashire	www.ambitionlancashire.co.uk or Room 113 Futures Park