



CABINET – 7 NOVEMBER 2001

PORTFOLIO : POLICY AND STRATEGY

NEW FOREST DISTRICT LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 At the last meeting, Members received a verbal update on the progress towards establishing a Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) for the District.
- 1.2 Part of that progress was the publication of a consultation paper on the subject.
- 1.3 This report sets out a brief summary of the responses made to the consultation paper and seeks the appointment of the Council's representatives on the LSP.

2. CONSULTATION FEEDBACK

- 2.1 The Community Strategy Steering Group issued its consultation paper to over 75 organisations including 37 town and parish councils.
- 2.2 At the time of writing 26 responses have been received.
- 2.3 The consultation sought comments on seven issues and set out below are brief summaries of the comments received.

2.3.1 **Is the process involved in producing a Community Strategy worthwhile?**

Virtually everyone felt this would be worthwhile.

2.3.2 **What are the essential elements to get right?**

- Adequate representation of minorities in process.
- Approach needs to come from the bottom up.
- Avoid duplication of effort.
- Detailed assessment of needs.
- Provision of necessary resources to enable it to be effective.
- Avoid it becoming a talking shop.
- Need to demonstrate action and improvement.

- Build on existing processes.
- Set clear targets and develop PI's.
- Direct access for all agencies and communities to deliver input.
- Need to link issues.
- Consultation may need to be innovative.
- Needs commitment from partners.
- Method of determining priorities.
- Deal with real problems and come up with real solutions.

2.3.3 Will the LSP be in the interest of the public?

Generally yes, but a few words of caution:

- Needs to be proactive.
- Proposal appears isolated from the public.
- Concerns about cost.
- Needs to be more effective than current NFDC/Parish Council partnership.
- Actual outcomes (social, economic and environmental) must be seen.
- Processes need to be open and transparent.
- Public interest may wane.
- Sceptical as to likely influence.
- Communication within the structure essential to get right.

2.3.4 Is the draft aim right?

Virtually all support. One felt it was too long, and one cautioned against duplication of effort.

2.3.5 Are the draft terms of reference and action plan correct?

Generally supportive. Comments to note:

- Draft action points inward looking and supply led.
- This is a public sector agenda – not representative of the whole community.
- Rationalise the number of terms of reference.
- Some concern over potential financial and policy control over individual organisations.
- Inter departmental communications at District and County Councils must be improved to make best use of resources.
- Difficult to achieve improved service delivery if voluntary services were interfered with too much.

2.3.6 Is the draft membership right?

Generally supportive. Comments to note:

- Should include four parish/town councillors.

- GOSE representative should not vote.
- Too much statutory sector representation – not enough public and voluntary elements.
- Level of membership proposed may not be the most effective.
- Sport and leisure should be represented.
- Hants Fire and Rescue Service should be represented.
- Education provision, particularly 19+ should be represented.
- Youth and elderly should be represented.
- Ability to call in other agencies from time to time is of paramount importance.

2.3.7 Is the draft structure correct?

Virtually all support. Comments to note:

- The public interface is where the success or failure of the process lies and the 'inner circles' of the structure must not be seen to dictate the process and issues to the public.
- Information from meetings needs to filter down to 'multi-agency groups' 'other organisations' and 'the public'.
- The Community Action Team needs to be adequately resourced to allow an efficient flow of information between all groups/agencies and the public.
- Need to be clear about differences between LSP and existing multi agency groups eg New Forest Committee.
- Not clear how contributions will be fed into the process.
- Existing channels, if used efficiently, are adequate.

3. COMMUNITY STRATEGY STEERING GROUP

3.1 The Community Strategy Steering group met on 2 October 2001 and considered all the responses to the consultation received by that date.

3.2 The output from that meeting was:

Aims/Terms of Reference

It was agreed to extend these to include sustainability and the three areas of well being as key themes.

Membership

It was agreed to:

- Increase the HCC membership to two.
- Invite the New Forest Committee to appoint one representative to help represent the environmental interests.
- Invite the New Forest Tourism Association and the Business Forum (once established) to appoint one representative each to represent the business community.

- Invite the colleges to appoint one representative to represent 16+ education.

The membership proposals now going forward to the first meeting of the Local Strategic Partnership on Wednesday 14 November are:

Organisation	No of Representatives
New Forest District Council	2
Hampshire County Council	2
Town and Parish Councils	2
Hampshire Constabulary	1
New Forest Primary Care Trust	2
New Forest Voluntary Services Council	1
Forestry Commission	1
New Forest Committee	1
New Forest Tourism Association	1
Business Community (Business Forum)	1
16+ Education – College	1

The Government Office for the South East has been invited to send representatives. Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service has also been invited to send a representative and the LSP will discuss with that service its future role in the LSP.

4. NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL'S REPRESENTATION ON THE LSP

- 4.1 The District Council has two places in the draft membership proposals for the LSP.
- 4.2 Cabinet is asked to formally approve the appointment of two members, with the Chief Executive to act as one of the Council's representatives in the absence of either appointed members.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The District Council will pump prime the LSP, providing accommodation for meetings, secretarial support and generally give it the priority it deserves.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The recognition of environmental well being as one of three key themes in the work of the LSP should ensure that any impact on the environment will be considered as part of its work.
- 6.2 The inclusion of organisations such as the Forestry Commission and New Forest Committee will place environmental interests alongside economic and social interests. This will help raise the profile of, and protect the environment for present and future generations.

7. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Crime and disorder issues cut across the three areas of well being and the establishment of the NFDLSP should help the Council and its partners tackle crime and disorder in the district.
- 7.2 The inclusion, in particular, of Hampshire Constabulary will provide other agencies with a better opportunity to understand how their work could impact on the issue.

8. CONCLUSION

- 8.1 The establishment of the Local Strategic Partnership for the District is a significant step in partnership working at a strategic level.
- 8.2 Its success will be largely dependant on the enthusiasm and attitudes of those involved on the LSP itself and the Community Action Team.
- 8.3 The real impact on the quality of life of people will need to be evident within their own communities. The success at this level will be largely down to the enthusiasm and willingness of the communities themselves together with their town and parish council, to participate in the community planning process.

9. RECOMMENDATION

- 9.1 That two Members of the Council be appointed to serve on the New Forest District Local Strategic Partnership; and
- 9.2 That the Chief Executive be appointed as the deputy for either Member on the LSP.

For further information

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Background papers

Consultation Report: Draft Proposals
Relating to the Establishment of a Local
Strategic Partnership

Responses to the Consultation Report