



AGENDA ITEM: 13

## OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY BOARD

2<sup>ND</sup> JUNE 2009

### A SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY FOR MIDDLESBROUGH

KAREN ROBINSON – ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE

#### PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To request the Overview and Scrutiny Board to recommend Council to approve the Sustainable Community Strategy for Middlesbrough 2008-23.

#### EVIDENCE/DISCUSSION

2. The 2006 Local Government White Paper, *Strong and Prosperous Communities*, sets out the functions of the Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS):

*“It provides a vehicle for considering and deciding how to address difficult cross-cutting issues such as the economic future of an area, social exclusion and climate change. Building these issues into the community’s vision in an integrated way is at the heart of creating sustainable development at a local level.”*

3. Middlesbrough Council’s most recent Community Strategy was produced in 2005. That document provided for the first Local Area Agreement (LAA) produced in 2006/07, as well as the ‘new-look’ Local Area Agreement covering 2008 – 2011.
4. At its meeting on 11 November 2008 the Executive endorsed the draft Sustainable Community Strategy for further consultation.

#### PROCESS

5. The guidance *Negotiating New Local Area Agreements* (Communities and Local Government, September 2007) recognises the relationship between the Sustainable Community Strategy and the Local Area Agreement:

*A strong and ambitious Sustainable Community Strategy, based on extensive engagement locally, agreed by the council or councils and the Local Strategic*

*Partnership, is fundamental to the success of LAAs. The SCS sets out where the area has come from, where it is at, and where it wants to be with social, economic and environmental goals incorporated in a joined up way to contribute to sustainable development. It will set out ambition over a much longer timescale than the three year LAA.*

6. Consultation that was undertaken to support the development of the LAA has also supported the SCS.
7. The final draft of the SCS has been based on bringing together information from existing plans and strategies to support the priorities that have been agreed.
8. Considerable consultation has taken place with service providers, with Middlesbrough Partnership Action Groups and with wider stakeholders at Partnership events.
9. The final draft SCS builds on feedback from the Council's Corporate Assessment Report (December 2008) and includes longer-term outcomes which illustrate what Middlesbrough will look like if the overall vision is achieved as well as demonstrating the incremental short, medium and long-term steps that will be taken to achieve the vision.
10. In addition the final draft SCS ensures that Middlesbrough Partnership is able to respond effectively to the requirements of the Comprehensive Area Assessment, introduced in April 2009.

## **STRUCTURE**

11. The final draft SCS (attached at appendix 1) is based on the following structure:

- **About Middlesbrough** - telling the 'story of place' for Middlesbrough
- **Our vision for Middlesbrough, Themes and Strategic Priorities** - the Middlesbrough Partnership sets out its vision, themes and aims. The vision and themes describe 'what' Middlesbrough will be like in 2023
- **Delivering the Strategy** - taking the wider vision for Middlesbrough as a starting point, this section articulates what the vision for Middlesbrough means in terms of each theme and describes the aspirations for the future in respect of the relevant theme
- **Underlying Principles** - there are also a range of important principles and priorities that cut across and need to be a consideration in all Middlesbrough Community Strategy priorities and everything it does. These principles are:
  - Community Engagement
  - Equality and Diversity
  - Narrowing the Gap – people whose circumstances make them vulnerable
  - Value for Money
  - Sustainability
- **How everything fits together** - how the SCS relates to other plans and strategies
- **Middlesbrough Partnership** - sets out the role of Middlesbrough Partnership
- **Monitoring the delivery**

12. The draft will be subject to further minor amendments prior to consideration by Council, including editorial and proof reading changes. These changes will not alter the fundamental content and direction of the document.

13. The final version of the SCS, along with an executive summary, will be professionally designed and printed. The look and the feel of the document will be substantially different to the final draft SCS; however, the content will not change.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

14. It is recommended that the Overview and Scrutiny Board recommend to Council to approve the Sustainable Community Strategy for Middlesbrough 2008-23.

**AUTHOR: Kathryn Warnock**  
**TEL NO: 01642 729559**