

Item No. 77.1	Classification: Open	Date: 26/03/03	Meeting Name: Council Assembly
Report title:		Community Strategy: 2003-6	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Chief Executive	

RECOMMENDATION(S)

1. That Council endorse the revised Community Strategy,
2. That the Council note the process for review of the strategy during 2003/4 and particularly note the future role of the Southwark Alliance.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3. This is the borough's second Community Strategy, the first having been agreed in 2000 for the 2000-2 period. The Community Strategy represents the highest-level plan of the Council and sets out the long-term goals and objectives that will help improve the social, economic and environmental well-being of the borough. Although the Council is responsible for leading, developing and endorsing the Strategy, responsibility for agreeing and implementing its objectives lies with the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) – *the Southwark Alliance*, as many of the LSP goals have shared responsibility across public, private and voluntary sectors.
4. This revised 2003-06 Strategy has been developed in debate and discussion with partners across the borough. More importantly, it reflects the work of the many formal partnerships that already exist to tackle such issues as health and crime. The LSP, partner organisations and all the Council's Scrutiny Committees have all discussed draft versions during 2002 and 2003.
5. In January 2003, the LSP gave an endorsement to the five priorities of the Strategy as guiding principles for future work. It also endorsed the approach that the thematic action plans in this version of the Strategy should reflect the work of existing partnerships, to avoid duplication, to reflect the extensive partnerships already in place and to act as a baseline for future reviews.
6. There is an obligation to keep the Strategy under review (as required under statutory guidance and Best Value performance indicators). The LSP will review the Strategy in 2003/4 to:
 - Review the role of the LSP in driving the strategy,
 - Scrutinise the effectiveness of current action plans across a wide range of partnerships (acknowledging that in the case of crime, health and education, statutory work plans are already in place and have cross-sector support)
 - Engage a wider community in policy debates,

- Debate some of the policy dilemmas that have evolved during debate (for example, the degree to which priorities can be better focused around particular client groups such as young people or the elderly).
7. The objective of this review will be to transfer ownership of the Strategy to the LSP, enhance work planning through greater community ownership and to produce a revised strategy in March 2004. The Council's role thereafter will be to agree its contribution to achieving individual priorities. The Community Strategy will remain within the Council's budget and policy framework as required by statute.
 8. It should be noted that the Local Government Act 2000 gave the Council a general power to ensure the well being of the borough. In determining whether or not to exercise this power the Council must have regard to the Community Strategy.

Monitoring and Review arrangements

9. Under Best Value regulations, the Council is obligated to review and monitor the effectiveness of the Strategy. Reviewing progress against the five priorities will be co-ordinated through bi-monthly meetings of the LSP. Progress will be reported back formally to the community through an annual stakeholder conference to take place in Sep/Oct 2003.

Provisional Timetable

Milestones	By when?	Means of delivery
Progress report on delivery against actions detailed in 2003/6 strategy	September 2003	Bi-monthly LSP meeting
Formally report back to community	October 2003	Annual stakeholder conference
Draft revised strategy for 2004/7	January 2004	Bi-monthly LSP meeting (with subsequent Executive and Council Assembly meetings)

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
<i>Title of document(s)</i>	<i>Title of department / unit Address</i>	<i>Name Phone number</i>
Executive report, 25 th February 2003	Corporate Strategy, Town Hall	Stephen Gaskell (extension 57293)
Community Strategy for Southwark 2003-6	Corporate Strategy, Town Hall	Stephen Gaskell (extension 57293)
Southwark Alliance Accreditation self-assessment and action plan for 2003/4	Copies can be obtained from Corporate Strategy, Town Hall	Stephen Gaskell (extension 57293)

APPENDIX A

Audit Trail

Lead Officer	Ian Hughes, Head of Corporate Strategy	
Report Author	Stephen Gaskell, Corporate Strategy Officer	
Version	Final	
Dated	25 February 2003	
Key Decision?	Yes	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / EXECUTIVE MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments included
Borough Solicitor & Secretary	Yes	-
Chief Finance Officer	No	No
<i>List other Officers here</i>		
Executive Member	Yes	Yes
Date final report sent to Constitutional Support Services	13 March 2003	