

Item No.	Classification: Open	Date: 25/02/03	MEETING NAME Executive
Report title:		Community Strategy for Southwark 2003-6	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Bob Coomber, Chief Executive Ian Hughes, Head of Corporate Strategy	

RECOMMENDATION(S)

1. That the Executive agree the Community Strategy (attached) as a working document to take forward during 2003/4.
2. That the Executive agrees to review the Strategy during 2003/4 and report back progress via the Local Strategic Partnership.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3. At its meeting on 8 October, the Executive agreed to revise the Community Strategy for 2003-6 with the objectives of:
 - Embedding ownership among a wide range of partners
 - Establishing clear targets, which drive priorities thereby positively responding to the recommendations of the recent Comprehensive Performance Assessment.
4. During the autumn a series of meetings took place between the Leader of the Council, as Chair of the LSP, and a wide range of partners culminating in endorsement of the Community Strategy as a 'living' document by the Southwark Alliance on 23 January 2003. Also during this period, Overview and Scrutiny committee and the sub-committees were given the opportunity to comment and the strategy was amended to reflect this.
5. The revised Community Strategy represents a strong baseline from which to now move forward. It effectively brings together in one place the commitments of a wide range of partners in the Borough drawn from agreed plans and strategies. The five priorities will be taken forward by the Council as its strategic priorities.

Annual Review

6. Revising the community strategy represents a key achievement, however it is acknowledged that there is still more to do in engaging the various communities of interest in the Borough.
7. A number of dilemmas have been posed as a result of revising the strategy. These include:
 - The degree to which priorities can be better focused around particular client groups such as young people or the elderly.
 - The degree to which the strategy reflects the varying interests of community groups and organisations throughout the Borough.

- The ways in which to make the strategy more accessible to a wider range of interests.

And more specifically, relating to individual priorities:

- The extent of wider partnership activity within the 'Clean and Green' priority.
 - Ways in which to further tighten the focus of objectives and targets within the 'Tackling Poverty' priority. For example, through building on the work of the Council's anti-poverty approach recently agreed by Members (report to Executive on 17 December) and subsequent anti-poverty event held in January.
8. The strategy is work in progress. The few information gaps that still exist (written in italics within the Strategy) will be filled in the next few weeks.
 9. It is proposed that the strategy should be reviewed annually to ensure that it remains up-to-date and adds value to the community planning process. The review during 2003/4 will engage LSP 'themed' focus groups in discussing the dilemmas arising from the latest community strategy process as described in paragraph 7.
 10. Progress on the Community Strategy will be reported back to the LSP in September/October 2003, which will inform the annual review.
 11. Following Executive agreement, the Community Strategy will be presented to Council Assembly for adoption in March. The report to Council will detail the dilemmas that should be taken forward into the wider community via the LSP. The final strategy for 2003-6 should be published in the Spring.
 12. There will also be a user-friendly summary to sit alongside the final document.

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>
Community Strategy for Southwark 2003-6	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	Working document	
Dated	25 February 2003	
Key Decision?	Yes	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / EXECUTIVE MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments included
Borough Solicitor & Secretary	No	No
Chief Finance Officer	No	No
<i>List other Officers here</i>		
Executive Member	Yes	Yes
Date final report sent to Constitutional Support Services	17 February 2003	