

## SEVENOAKS DISTRICT COMMUNITY PLAN 2022 - 2032

Cabinet - 7 July 2022

**Report of:** Chief Officer - People and Places

**Status:** For decision

**Also considered by:** People & Places Advisory Committee -14 June 2022

**Key Decision:** Yes

**Executive Summary:** This report seeks approval of the final draft of Community Plan for the period 2022 - 2032. The document and its supporting Action Plan has been developed by the Sevenoaks District Local Strategic Partnership following public consultation.

**This reports support the Key Aim of:** the Council Plan.

**Portfolio Holder:** Cllr. Lesley Dyball

**Contact Officer(s):** Sarah Robson and Kelly Webb, x 7219

**Recommendation to People and Places Advisory Committee**

That comments on recommendation a) are passed to Cabinet.

**Recommendation to Cabinet**

- a) That Members are asked to approve the final draft Community Plan and action plan for 2022-2032.

**Reason for recommendation:** The draft strategy and action plan has been reviewed by the People and Places Advisory Committee and Cabinet. Final changes noted by Cabinet will be incorporated.

### Introduction and Background

- 1 The Sevenoaks District Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) works together to improve the quality of life for people in the Sevenoaks District. The partnership is made up of private, public, voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations who work with communities to identify and tackle key long, medium and short-term local issues to ensure Sevenoaks District remains a great place to live and work.
- 2 This Community Plan is the shared, long-term, partnership vision for Sevenoaks District developed by the Sevenoaks District LSP.

- 3 The overarching priority for the Community Plan is to increase community participation in the Sevenoaks District as a driver to improving resilience and wellbeing, focusing on those parts of the district with the poorest outcomes. The Plan highlights how adopting a collective approach can help to better achieve the ambitions of the people that live and work in the district.
- 4 Sevenoaks District has an active and vibrant voluntary and community sector that already provides a wide range of valuable services, and that makes a positive contribution to the lives of many in the district. The Community Plan wants to further strengthen the ability of these groups to have a positive impact on the district, through better co-ordination and joining up of the public and voluntary sectors on a collective set of priorities. Most importantly the Community Plan wants to encourage actions that mobilise and involve our local communities, so that they become active partners in helping us to meet the growing and changing needs of our population.

### **Public consultation**

- 5 Public consultation was undertaken in the second half of 2021, which helped to identify the following four local priorities for action - place, economy, people and environment.
- 6 The consultation together with examination of local data has informed the final strategy and action plan, which sets out how partners will deliver the priorities in the plan.
- 7 Overall, residents of Sevenoaks District expressed their aspirations and determination to support and develop their district. They care greatly about the place they live and want to see it grow and develop in a way that supports them and their communities.
- 8 The consultation provided the following feedback:
- 9 **Community spirit is something that residents rate highly**
  - Increasing importance of helping our neighbours
  - Getting involved in activities in their local community
  - People want to do more, but time is viewed as a barrier
- 10 **Residents care about their local environment and want to recycle more**
  - They would like to have more opportunities to recycle
  - More, clearer information about what they can recycle and how they can play their part
- 11 **Residents highlighted their ambitions and aspirations for town centres**
  - More events and activities
  - Amenities such as family friendly restaurants and leisure facilities
  - Good availability of local services and transport links

- Many people recognised that town centres are changing, becoming less retail focused and developing into destinations where people can enjoy social activities
- 12 **Residents are keen to take part in more leisure activities across the district making the most of its green spaces**
    - Being able to easily access the countryside and green spaces within the district
    - More accessible and well-linked cycling and walking routes
    - Continued investment in our green spaces and nature reserves
  - 13 The final draft of the Community Plan and Action Plan which take into account the public consultation feedback are attached at Appendix A.
  - 14 The action plan and the associated performance monitoring are the result of discussion with partner agencies and Heads of Service and Chief Officers within the Council about realistic delivery of the aspirations in the Community Plan.
  - 15 Whilst the District Council is responsible for co-ordinating this work, the Community Plan is a multi-agency strategy, delivered in partnership with many agencies and therefore covers a wide range of issues and services.

## **Key Implications**

### Financial

Delivery of the Community Plan is through each agency's own resources. In some cases, work will be dependent upon external funding sources and appropriate funding bids will be made.

### Legal Implications and Risk Assessment Statement

There are no legal implications associated with this report. The Community Plan enables partners to work together in a structured and co-ordinated way, helping to improve efficiency, share resources and most importantly secure additional resources and commitments from partners on the delivery of local community aspirations.

Whilst every effort has been made to identify realistic actions, outcomes rely on the continued input of a range of agencies working together, along with the goodwill of communities and voluntary organisations. Regular quarterly monitoring of the Community Plan will identify at an early stage outcomes that may not be delivered so that alternative strategies or revised actions can be agreed.

### Equality Assessment

Members are reminded of the requirement, under the Public Sector Equality Duty (section 149 of the Equality Act 2010) to have due regard to (i) eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Equality Act 2010, (ii) advance equality of opportunity between people from

different groups, and (iii) foster good relations between people from different groups. The decisions recommended through this paper directly impact on end users. The impact has been analysed and does not vary between groups of people. The results of this analysis are set out in Appendix B.

### Net Zero

The decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the council's ambition to be Net Zero by 2030. There is no perceived impact regarding either an increase or decrease in carbon emissions in the district, or supporting the resilience of the natural environment. Where possible, the Local Strategic Partnership will seek to align with the Council's net zero ambitions or with their organisation's net zero ambitions.

### Community Impact and Outcomes

The Community Plan is based upon the results of consultation with the community, including its harder to reach groups, partner agencies and other stakeholders. It also reflects community needs identified through local data

### **Conclusions**

The overarching goal of the Community Plan is to build social capital in the district as an underlying driver to improve resilience and wellbeing. Social capital is about creating a shared sense of responsibility and the ways in which communal activity can benefit everyone. It is about shared values and co-operation, building trust and reciprocity. Members are asked to approve the final draft of the Community Plan and Action Plan for publication.

#### **Appendices**

Appendix A - Sevenoaks District Local Strategic Partnership Community Plan - Better Together (2022 - 2032) and Action Plan

Appendix B - Equality Impact Assessment (to follow)

#### **Background Papers**

None

**Sarah Robson**  
Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Officer, People and Places