

## Making a real difference to the lives of people in Haringey

### Addressing the big issues: Refreshing our Sustainable Community Strategy

We are living in challenging times, with a rapidly changing political and economic environment which will inevitably shape our priorities. Locally, we have a new Council Administration with new manifesto commitments which need to be delivered. Nationally, the new Coalition Government has made it clear that reducing the budget deficit is the most urgent issue facing Britain.<sup>1</sup> At the same time, Ministers have set out their belief that it is time for a fundamental shift of power from Westminster to local people by giving new powers to councils, communities, neighbourhoods and individuals. This includes an intention to create a simple and consolidated national planning framework covering all forms of development and setting out national economic, environmental and social priorities.<sup>2</sup>

Each local authority has a statutory duty to provide a Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) which sets out the long-term strategic vision for the area. In Haringey, our [Sustainable Community Strategy](#) (SCS) is the framework that helps us identify the “big issues”, as the focus for partnership working locally.

Launched in 2007, the HSP has much to be proud of in the last three years, as set out in the two SCS [progress reports](#).<sup>3</sup>

### Doing more with less

Our aim is to refresh the SCS in an efficient, effective way. It will not involve a whole scale re-write but will refine, update and develop what we already have.

This means that the process should not be separated from mechanisms that already exist, nor should it duplicate work that is already ongoing. We are therefore recommending that:

- the SCS project leads work closely with key strategy leads to review, refine and agree a set of local themes
- each of the local themes is delivered via a key strategy in a partnership programme of work (*see figure 1*).

This will enable us to link our key strategies clearly and directly into the SCS, building on what we already have. It will capture key priorities that have been identified as part of the ongoing development and monitoring of those strategies. The outcome will be a set of key strategies and a SCS that is able to identify and adapt to meeting new and emerging needs. This will be a rolling programme of change.

### Where we are now

The HSP Executive has agreed that the SCS is refreshed this year, for the following reasons:

- Since 2007 there have been a number of new local policy developments which need to be better reflected in the SCS, such as the Local Development Framework and Core Strategy 2011-26, the Children and Young People’s Plan, and the Housing Strategy
- The need for a new partnership delivery plan for 2011-14, currently known as the Local Area Agreement (LAA).

### What we want to achieve

Our aim is to renew our SCS so that it:

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<sup>1</sup> [The Spending Review framework](#), HM Treasury, June 2010

<sup>2</sup> [The Coalition: our programme for Government](#), HM Government, May 2010

<sup>3</sup> The [first progress report](#) (June 2007- December 2008) can be found on the Haringey website, the second progress report (January 2009 - March 2010) will be published this summer and is available upon request from the [Council’s Policy Team](#).

- guides the work of the HSP
- Is based on – and directly linked to – our key strategies and their action plans
- identifies the priorities for the renewed LAA

This will create a dynamic relationship between the SCS, key strategies and the LAA.

The refreshed SCS will:

- set out the “big issues” for Haringey, based on evidence
- be measurable, which means it must be transparent about what we want to achieve, by when, how and who is responsible – ‘spending wisely, spending fairly’
- contribute to our work on Total Haringey

*Figure 1* sets out the process for achieving these aims by:

- providing the framework for all of the HSP’s key strategies
- aligning key priorities that they have identified (during development and regular monitoring)

The process will follow the principles set out in the HSP’s Community Engagement Framework, Compact and Community Cohesion Framework which incorporate our commitment to promoting equalities.

### **How we will achieve this**

We are therefore proposing that the process for refreshing the SCS will fall into two broad phases:

#### **1. Evaluating the current SCS – where are we now?**

A self-evaluation of progress to March 2010 has been completed.

#### **2. Establishing the ‘Big Issues’ for Haringey now and in the future**

- a) What do we know? This will include an audit of existing knowledge, including:
- findings of local consultations since 2007 for key strategies including those undertaken to develop the Local Development framework and Core Strategy
  - local and national political manifestos
  - statutory and local needs assessments, and Borough Profile information
  - perception information/ major surveys e.g. the Residents Survey
  - existing and upcoming local and national policy developments
- b) Consultation with stakeholders
- Strategic consultation: kick-off meeting at the HSP Standing Leadership Conference on 8 July 2010
  - Key strategy consultation: A number of the HSP’s key strategies and delivery plans are due to be reviewed for example:
    - Safer for All Strategy
    - Well-being Strategic Framework
    - Children and Young People’s Implementation Plan

All consultations on SCS key strategies will be ‘branded’ as such to signpost their contribution to the SCS refresh process. This will ensure that these strategies will develop priorities not only for their individual areas but also for the SCS.

### **Timeframe**

Deadline	Action	Responsibility of:
Summer 2010	Review of existing SCS and audit of existing local knowledge	SCS Refresh Project Team
Autumn 2010	Consultation on several key strategies which underpin the SCS	Key Strategy Leads
	Assess the impact of the Comprehensive Spending Review	SCS Refresh Project Team
Spring 2011	SCS refresh project ends, and a revised SCS is published	SCS Refresh Project Team
	LAA Delivery Plan produced	Policy & Performance, Haringey Council
Summer 2011 onwards	Key strategies delivering the SCS will be updated on a rolling basis and the SCS will be updated accordingly.	Key Strategy Leads

### Overseeing the process

The HSP Executive has agreed to nominate individuals to sit on a Partnership Steering Group which will oversee the refresh of the SCS. This will be a task and finish group that meets a set number of times and reports to the HSP Executive.

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# Figure 1: Key Haringey Strategies and Plans

