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**CONSULTATION ON THE DRAFT  
SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY**

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**Purpose of Report**

1. To invite the views of Members of Scrutiny Committee on the draft Darlington Sustainable Community Strategy as part of the full consultation process.

**Information and Analysis**

2. The Darlington Partnership (LSP) is seeking views on the core content of the new Sustainable Community Strategy. A programme of consultation has been taking place throughout December 2007 and January 2008. The draft strategy document is work in progress – it currently sets out the proposed five strategy themes and priority actions within each of these themes. Views, comments and feedback are invited to inform the redraft of Strategy during February 2008.

**The New Vision for Darlington**

3. The vision for Darlington is what we are all aiming for in our work to improve the borough and people's quality of life. We want a vision that is distinctively about Darlington, setting a picture of the future rooted in the best of its past and present. It will reflect the qualities of:
  - A prosperous and empowered community founded on its rich tradition of enterprise and innovation;
  - A place of ambition, opportunity and vibrant urban living, available to everybody;
  - The history and quality of life of a friendly market town;
  - A centre for successful, innovative and enterprising business;
  - Easy and sustainable access by road, rail and air for everybody.
4. These qualities will be translated in the final strategy into a simple vision statement that will successfully represent Darlington and its people. We welcome your views on this.

**The Strategy Themes**

5. The outputs and conclusions from all of the consultation, investigations and research feeding into the strategy have been organised into five themes as follows:
  - Prosperous Darlington – creating a vibrant economy and prosperity for all.
  - Aspiring Darlington – enabling people to develop and achieve their aspirations, and to maximise their potential.
  - Healthy Darlington – building health and well-being for everybody irrespective of social, economic and environmental constraints.

- Greener Darlington – ensuring an attractive and ‘liveable’ local environment, and contributing to global environmental protection.
  - Safer Darlington – creating a safer and more cohesive Darlington.
6. Each theme has been broken down into a series of headings to guide the development of future actions.

### **Our Priorities**

7. Two priorities are proposed to help guide future decision-making and action under each of the themes, so as to sharpen the focus of future work. These priorities are:
- The vision for Darlington – ensuring that decisions, plans and actions are contributing to the delivery of our vision.
  - One Darlington – putting people and communities at the heart of future work in the borough to make sure that it helps to narrow the gaps across the borough in prosperity, health, aspiration and life chances, and to build strong and caring communities.

### **Conclusion**

8. Formal consultation ends on the 31<sup>st</sup> January. Views are sought to help get the final document into the best possible shape. A revised draft will be prepared during February 2008 taking into account the feedback received. A final draft will be prepared for the Darlington Partnership Board for approval in March 2008.

### **Legal Implications**

9. This report has been considered by the Borough Solicitor for legal implications in accordance with the Council's approved procedures. There are no issues which the Borough Solicitor considers need to be brought to the specific attention of Members, other than those highlighted in the report.

### **Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998**

10. The contents of this report have been considered in the context of the requirements placed on the Council by Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, namely, the duty on the Council to exercise its functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent, crime and disorder in its area. It is not considered that the contents of this report have any such effect.

### **Recommendations**

11. Members are asked to consider the attached Draft Sustainable Community Strategy.

**Lorraine O'Donnell**  
**Assistant Chief Executive**

### **Background Papers**

No Background papers were used in the preparation of this report.

John Bosson: Extension 2016