

**COUNCIL REPORT**  
**Support for the Sustainable Communities Act 2007**

Agenda Item 6(i)

**Portfolio Area:** Customers & Communications  
**Report Presented by:** Cllr Mrs Jo Beavis**Background Papers:** Sustainable Communities Act 2007 (SCA 2007)**Corporate Implications:** Please refer to table at end of report**Options:** To agree or not agree to support the Sustainable Communities Act 2007**Risks:** None arising directly from this report**Executive Summary**

The SCA 2007 became law in October 2007 with full cross party support. It provides a channel for local people to ask central government through their local council to take action on specific issues to promote the sustainability of their communities. Sustainability is defined as anything that can improve the economic, social or environment well-being of the area or promote civic or political activity.

Any proposals that are submitted via the Council must involve local people and they must also require some action from central government such as change in legislation, a transfer of responsibilities or new national policy. The Act could for example be used to gain new powers to promote local businesses, to meet climate change targets or reduce restrictions on the way in which grant money can be spent by local authorities.

This report seeks the Council's support for the Act.

**Recommendation to Council: -**

This Council :-

- (i) notes that local authorities and their communities know best how to improve local areas and solve local problems and so should determine how to promote thriving communities; and so
- (ii) supports the bottom up process in the Sustainable Communities Act designed to allow local authorities and their communities to drive the help and assistance that central government gives to promote thriving, sustainable communities;
- (iii) notes that the Act became law in October 2007 with full cross party support and that this was a result of 5 year campaign run by a coalition of over 90 national citizens organisations called Local Works; and
- (iv) notes that the Act gives local authorities the power to make proposals to government on the action and help government must take or give to promote sustainable communities in that local authority's area, and argue for a transfer of public money spent in that local authority's area and it's related function from central to local control.

<b>Corporate Implications</b>	
<b>Financial:</b>	There are none arising out of this report
<b>Legal:</b>	The Sustainable Communities Act 2007 enables Councils, through working with their communities to develop proposals promoting sustainable communities.
<b>Equalities &amp; Diversity:</b>	Any proposal that is developed will be assessed for its impact on equalities.
<b>Customer Impact:</b>	Any proposal that is developed will be assessed for its impact on customers.
<b>Consultation/Community Engagement:</b>	Consultation and community involvement is at the core of the Act and any proposal would require input and development from the community.
<b>Environment &amp; Climate Change:</b>	Any proposal that is developed will be assessed for its impact on the environment and climate change.
<b>Key Decision:</b>	No
<b>Public/Private Report:</b>	Public
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