

**‘One District – One Vision – A draft Strategy for people and places in the Braintree District to 2025
(the draft Braintree District Sustainable Community and Local Development Framework Core Strategy**

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Background Papers: Evidence Base Studies (on Planning Policy Website)
Financial Implications: Costs of consultation to be met from existing budgets
Equalities Implications: Accessibility issues are considered throughout the document. It will be Equalities Impact Assessed and rural-proofed before being finally signed off
Legal Implications: None
Options: Not applicable.
Risks: None at this stage

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This document comprises the combined draft Sustainable Community Strategy and the Core Strategy element of the Local Development framework for the Braintree District for the period up to 2025. Government guidance stresses the importance of closely linking the two documents and this is the first time that they have been joined up in this way.

The document has been prepared jointly by the Braintree District Local Strategic Partnership (which is responsible for developing the Sustainable Community Strategy – or ‘community priority’ - elements) and Braintree District Council which is responsible for developing the Core Strategy – or planning policy – elements.

Cabinet agreed the draft Core Strategy and planning policy elements for consultation at its last meeting and the consultation process has now started.

Members are now asked to consider the draft Community Priorities set out in the document. They fall into the following categories:

- Promoting accessibility for all
- Creating a clean and green environment
- Achieving a prosperous local economy
- Enabling everyone to enjoy a safe and healthy lifestyle.

They align closely with the Council's own Corporate Strategy because they are based on the same research and consultation findings. They also align closely to the priorities in the Essex Local Area Agreement.

Consultation will be ongoing during November and December. Following consultation all responses will be considered by the Local Development Framework Panel and the Local Strategic Partnership to determine whether any changes are required. The LDF element will then be submitted to Government for examination and approval. The final community priorities will be published in March 2009.

The full document can be viewed on the Council's website at www.braintree.gov.uk and hard copies are available on request from Member Resources and have been placed in the Member's Room.

As mentioned previously - it is for Council to approve the LDF elements of the strategy and for the Local Strategic Partnership to approve the Sustainable Community Strategy elements.

Recommendation

Cabinet is asked to endorse the draft Community Priorities as set out in the One District, One Vision document.