



CABINET

Tuesday, 04 May 2021

Subject	Enabling Communities Strategy
Report by	Councillor Letitia Smith Cabinet Members with responsibility for Communities, Leisure and Tourism
Supporting Officer	Nicole Rickard Head of Communities Nicole.rickard@eastsoffolk.gov.uk 07766 998074

Is the report Open or Exempt?	OPEN
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Category of Exempt Information and reason why it is NOT in the public interest to disclose the exempt information.	Not applicable
Wards Affected:	All Wards

Purpose and high-level overview

Purpose of Report:

To seek Cabinet approval for the revised Enabling Communities Strategy 2021 – 2024.

Options:

The Strategy has been revised to reflect the updated We Are East Suffolk Strategic Plan.

Recommendation:

That the revised Enabling Communities Strategy 2021-2024 be approved.

Corporate Impact Assessment

Governance:

Oversight of the Strategy is picked up through the Communities Strategic Plan Delivery Group and the Strategic Plan Delivery Board.

ESC policies and strategies that directly apply to the proposal:

'We are East Suffolk' Strategic Plan.

Environmental:

The Strategy references enabling communities to deliver projects that 'improve the environment, the economy and the social life of the area – making services and life better for everyone'. It also focusses on building on existing assets, including the environment.

Equalities and Diversity:

The Strategy references communities of interest as well as communities of geography in terms of the communities that the Council wants to enable, supporting individuals and families who may need more help and the importance of hearing different voices.

The Equality Impact Assessment on the Strategy is very generic and it is important that EqIAs are undertaken in relation to specific projects and activities identified within the Strategy. However, it specifically references the work of the two Disability Forums, Youth Voice and work around Period Poverty, all of which target specific Protected Characteristic Groups (Disability, Age and Socio-Economic Disadvantage respectively).

Financial:

There are no additional financial implications in relation to the Enabling Communities Strategy, although the Enabling Actions sections of the report include details about a range of activity that is already supported through substantial funding through both core budgets and New Homes Bonus, for example Community Partnerships and various grant schemes including the Councillors Enabling Communities Budgets.

Human Resources:

There are no Human Resources implications in relation to the strategy. The resource to deliver the various initiatives outlined within the Strategy sits in various teams in the Council, including the Communities Team.

ICT:

There are no ICT implications in relation to this Strategy, although there are examples of digital projects within it, specifically our work around Grandpads – simplified tablets aimed at older people.

Legal:

None

Risk:

Risk assessments are undertaken in relation to individual projects as relevant.

External Consultees:

Community Action Suffolk were consulted in the development of the Strategy as some of the projects referenced are delivered by them on behalf of or in conjunction with East Suffolk Council

Strategic Plan Priorities

Select the priorities of the Strategic Plan which are supported by this proposal: <i>(Select only one primary and as many secondary as appropriate)</i>		Primary priority	Secondary priorities
T01	Growing our Economy		
P01	Build the right environment for East Suffolk	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
P02	Attract and stimulate inward investment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P03	Maximise and grow the unique selling points of East Suffolk	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
P04	Business partnerships	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P05	Support and deliver infrastructure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
T02	Enabling our Communities		
P06	Community Partnerships	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
P07	Taking positive action on what matters most	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P08	Maximising health, well-being and safety in our District	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
P09	Community Pride	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
T03	Maintaining Financial Sustainability		
P10	Organisational design and streamlining services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P11	Making best use of and investing in our assets	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
P12	Being commercially astute	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P13	Optimising our financial investments and grant opportunities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P14	Review service delivery with partners	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
T04	Delivering Digital Transformation		
P15	Digital by default	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
P16	Lean and efficient streamlined services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P17	Effective use of data	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
P18	Skills and training	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
P19	District-wide digital infrastructure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
T05	Caring for our Environment		
P20	Lead by example	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
P21	Minimise waste, reuse materials, increase recycling	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
P22	Renewable energy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

P23	Protection, education and influence	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
XXX	Governance		
XXX	How ESC governs itself as an authority	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
How does this proposal support the priorities selected?			
<p>This Strategy underpins the second theme of our Strategic Plan – ‘Enabling our Communities’. It sets out the Council’s ambition to enable communities to do things for themselves by providing the support, information, funding and tools to help them to achieve their ambitions.</p> <p>However, East Suffolk communities have a key role to play in delivering all five themes of the Strategic Plan. They lead and working in partnership with us on a wide range of projects including digital projects to help people to stay safe in their homes or to get online, environmental activity for example planting or recycling projects, activity to improve health and wellbeing such as dementia café’s, lunch clubs or local walks, supporting local businesses, providing services or facilities for young people or improving community safety through projects such as Town Pastors.</p>			

Background and Justification for Recommendation

1 Background facts	
1.1	The Enabling Communities Strategy was originally agreed by Cabinet in November 2015.
1.2	Since then the new ‘We Are East Suffolk’ Strategic Plan has been developed and agreed. One of the five priorities in the Plan is ‘Enabling Our Communities’. In light of this and, taking into account the impact of Covid-19 on our communities it was felt timely to review and update the Enabling Communities Strategy.
1.3	The purpose of the Strategy is to clearly set out our ambitions around ‘enabling’ communities in plain English so that our communities and partners understand what they can expect from us i.e. what we mean by ‘enabling communities’ and how we will deliver this.
2 Current position	
2.1	The Enabling Communities Strategy seeks to define concepts like ‘Enabling Communities’, ‘Asset-based approaches’, ‘Resilient Communities’ and, indeed, what we mean by ‘communities’, explaining communities of ‘place’ or geography and communities of interest. It outlines our twelve step Enabling Communities model and provides a link to our online Enabling Communities Toolkit which includes 19 different ‘tools’ that communities can use to develop their project or activity.
2.2	The previous version of the Enabling Communities Strategy included a list of ‘Enabling Actions’ – things that the Council does to deliver its ambitions around Enabling Communities. This section of the document has now been structured around the four priorities in the ‘Enabling Our Communities’ section of the Strategic Plan – ‘Community Partnerships’, ‘Taking Positive Action on What Matters Most’, ‘Maximising Health, Wellbeing and Safety in our District’ and

	'Community Pride'.
2.3	The Strategy talks about resilient communities and the fact that a resilient community is one that is 'strong and quick to recover when things go wrong'. The revised Strategy uses the community response to the Covid-19 pandemic as an example of resilience, and highlights the Council's role in enabling that response (with funding, advice and practical support) and filling the gaps in less resilient communities, rather than doing things 'to' communities.

3 How to address current situation

3.1	The Strategy has been updated to ensure that it feels more current and aligns better to the Councils Strategic Plan, but much of the core content is the same. The ethos of the Strategy is our ambition as a Council to help communities to help themselves rather than doing things to or for them and encouraging communities to build on existing assets – what they already have that is strong – rather than focussing on what is wrong or missing.
3.2	It also highlights the importance of being data-led to ensure that our work is targeted to those people, communities and areas that most need our help and not just those who shout the loudest.

4 Reason for recommendation

4.1	The Enabling Communities Strategy has been revised and updated to better reflect the priorities set out in the Enabling Our Communities section of the 'We Are East Suffolk' Strategic Plan.
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Appendices

Appendices:

Appendix A	Draft Enabling Communities Strategy 2021-2024
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Background reference papers:

None.
