

Name of meeting: Cabinet
Date: 23 August 2016
Title of report: Sustainable communities – A draft policy statement from the Policy Committee in 2015/16

Key Decision - Is it likely to result in spending or saving £250k or more, or to have a significant effect on two or more electoral wards?	No.
Key Decision - Is it in the Council's Forward Plan (key decisions and private reports?)	No
The Decision - Is it eligible for call in by Scrutiny?	No
Date signed off by <u>Director</u> & name Signed off by Director of Resources? Is it also signed off by Assistant Director (Legal Governance and Monitoring)?	David Smith – 26 July 2016
Cabinet member	Cllr David Sheard & Cllr Shabir Pandor, Strategy and Strategic Resources, New Council & Regional Issues

Electoral wards affected: N/A
Ward councillors consulted: N/A
Public or private: Public

1. Purpose of report

To seek the views of the Cabinet on the work undertaken to-date to draft a policy statement on “Sustainable communities”

This report and its recommendations are based on the work of the Policy Committee in 2015/16, and a decision taken by the Policy Committee on 14 April 2016.

2. Summary

The Policy Committee was established as a result of a decision taken at the Council meeting on 24 June 2015, and held meetings in the period from Sept 2015 to April 2016.

At the meetings in Sept and Oct 2015, members of the Policy Committee reviewed the list of items which are part of the current policy framework of the council, and, as a result,

agreed that they would like to spend some time reviewing the policies associated with the following areas of work in 2015/16:-

- Equality and diversity
- Sustainable communities
- Passive housing
- Schools and their roles as hubs in the local communities.

At the Policy Committee (23 September 2015), members agreed to undertake a review in order to try to create a policy statement on “Sustainable communities” in Kirklees. This item is not part of the policy framework of the council.

The Policy Committee established an informal task and finish group to do this, which was chaired by Councillor Naheed Mather. Councillors Andrew Marchington, Hilary Richards and Gemma Wilson were also involved. The task and finish group held three ad hoc meetings in the period from January to March 2016, to review the topic, and to draft a policy statement. The work of the task and finish group was supported by John Heneghan, Head of Policy and Strategy.

Progress reports on the development of the work were shared with the Policy Committee, resulting in the following recommendation at the last meeting on 14 April 2016:-

“The draft policy statement to be referred to Cabinet for consideration as a draft and working document, following which it should be released for public consultation and development via the District Committee meetings in 2016/17. The outcome and the work on the final version of the policy statement will be reported back to Cabinet for approval. News of that decision will then be shared with Council”

The work on the draft policy statement to-date is described in an appendix to this report.

It was completed in April 2016, with the aim of presenting it to a Cabinet meeting in June 2016. However, consideration of the item had to be deferred until the decisions on the election of the Leader of the Council and the appointment of a Cabinet for the 2016/17 municipal year were resolved. These decisions were taken at Council on 29 June 2016.

The decision on the development and use of the policy statement now rests with the Cabinet

3. Implications for the Council

If adopted, the application of the new policy statement will have implications for the policies, strategies and work of the council and its services in 2016/17. It will mean:

- An expectation on services and decision-makers to consider the impact of their activities on the sustainability of communities and, where appropriate, how their approaches could be adapted to maximise or improve sustainability
- A commitment to align social and economic aims (i.e. developing our stated objective of ensuring the complementarity of our two core strategies – the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy and the Kirklees Economic Strategy). For example: by pursuing opportunities to explore new social policy agendas such as Inclusive Growth
- A commitment to further develop our ability to assess and measure impacts

Officers will need time to consider all of these implications in detail.

4. Consultees and their opinions

The work on the draft policy statement was developed in the period from January to March 2016. Early drafts of the final document, which is now appended to this report, were shared with the following:-

- Members of the Policy Committee - Task and finish group on sustainable communities
- Policy Committee on 14 April 2016

Their comments and views are reflected in the work on the final draft of the policy statement

5. Next steps

Cabinet is asked to consider the work on the draft policy statement to-date.

If approved, officers will:

- Develop practical tools and frameworks to support its implementation
- Develop a framework and methods to assess and measure impacts.
- Develop internal communications on the implications of the policy and what it means for services and decision makers

Officers will brief Councillor Rob Walker, Chair of the Policy Committee, about how the work on the development of the draft policy statement will progress.

6. Officer recommendations and reasons

The Cabinet is asked to consider and support further work on the draft policy statement in 2016/17.

The outcome and the work on the final version of the policy statement will be reported back to Cabinet for approval. News of that decision will then be shared with Council

7. Cabinet portfolio holder's recommendations

Cllr David Sheard supports the recommendation to refer details of the draft policy statement to Cabinet for consideration

8. Contact officers

Steve Copley, Principal Governance and Democratic Engagement Officer 01484 221000
John Heneghan, Head of Policy and Strategy 01484 221000

9. Background papers and history of decisions

Agenda, reports and minutes of the Policy Committee meeting on 14 April 2016

10. Assistant Director responsible

Julie Muscroft – Assistant Director for Legal, Governance and Monitoring

Policy Committee – ‘sustainable communities’

Draft Policy Statement

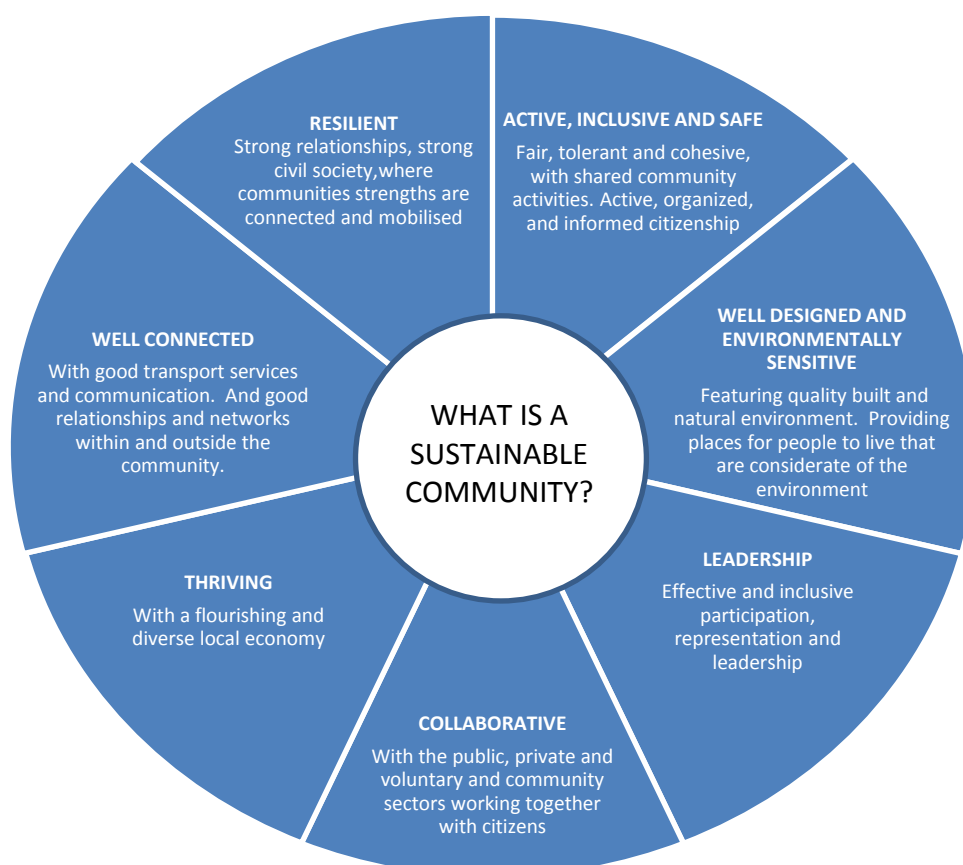
A sustainable community is one that is economically, environmentally and socially healthy and resilient. It meets challenges in an integrated way rather than through fragmented approaches that meet one of those goals at the expense of the others. And it takes a long-term perspective – one that’s focused on both the present and future.

The intention of this policy statement is to ensure that sustaining and improving the sustainability of communities becomes one of the criteria on which we base success on.

A range of existing policy already contributes to ‘sustainable communities’. This includes:

- Community Safety Partnership Plan
- Social Value Policy
- Cohesion Statement of Intent

This policy statement focusses on adding value to what is already in place. It aims to ensure that we understand and consider the overall impact our activities have on the sustainability of communities at different levels; and are able to connect the dots between policy impacts to see these through a ‘sustainable communities’ lens.



This policy statement restates our commitment to approaches which:

Consider the collective impact - of our decisions and strategies across the factors shown above.

Seek to increase community resilience: Resilient communities can call upon the myriad of resources that make them a healthy community. This makes them less susceptible to external shocks and adverse situations. Where these do occur they are more capable of bouncing back. Community resilience is built primarily through relationships, not just between members of the community but also between organisations, specifically between the voluntary sector, the local economy and the public sector.

Support communities to do more for themselves and each other: Genuinely empowered citizens and stronger civil society, where the communities' strengths are connected and mobilised. The abilities and insights of local residents become valuable resources, which we seek to recognize and build on, creating a synergy between the actions of the state, citizens and other stakeholders. By being a more enabling council - getting out of the way when we need to and giving up control where this is appropriate - and through different types of support and intervention in order to help make social action the norm.

Promote safe and cohesive communities: Kirklees has proud, diverse and distinct communities. The area owes much of its economic success and the vibrancy of its cultural life to the diversity of the backgrounds and lifestyles of its inhabitants. However, it is a strength that cannot be taken for granted, particularly at a time when our economy is changing and the needs and aspirations of our communities are changing with it. It is crucial we embed promoting community cohesion and supporting stronger communities through everything we do.

Align social and economic aims – so that communities are supported to both contribute to and benefit from economic growth and so that inequalities in social and economic outcomes are reduced.

Develop ways of assessing and measuring impacts – this includes:

- a more sophisticated understanding of the underlying conditions needed for resilient, sustainable communities;
- the 'baseline' below which communities resilience is compromised; and
- 'what works' in terms of effective interventions to improve resilience and connectedness.

We will seek to develop measures and metrics which provide a more complete picture, one which recognises economic, social and environmental outcomes. Once developed and approved this will form the basis for assessing this policy statement.