



**AGENDA ITEM: 7**  
**SUMMARY**

<b>Report for:</b>	<b>Cabinet</b>
<b>Date of meeting:</b>	<b>24<sup>th</sup> July 2012</b>
<b>PART:</b>	<b>1</b>
If Part II, reason:	

<b>Title of report:</b>	<b>Destination Dacorum (Sustainable Community Strategy)</b>
Contact:	Cllr Andrew Williams, Portfolio Holder for Community Leadership  Author/Responsible Officer: Natalie Webb, Team Leader Policy, Partnerships & Innovation
Purpose of report:	This report presents the Destination Dacorum Plan for Cabinet approval. Alongside providing a focus for the Destination Dacorum Board and articulating their work to the wider community, it will fulfil the Council's statutory requirement to prepare a Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS).
Recommendations	That Cabinet recommend Council to adopt 'Destination Dacorum - Our Plan' as contained in Annex 1 to the Report
Corporate objectives:	The Council's core vision is: <i>Working in partnership, to create a borough which enables the communities of Dacorum to thrive and prosper</i> – the Destination Dacorum Plan is the strategic method of achieving this. It therefore relates to all of our corporate objectives.
Implications:	<u>Financial</u> There are no specific financial implications relating to this report. There are listed actions within the plan: some strategic, some more practical - existing PRG/external funds will be sought to deliver the plan, where required.
'Value For Money Implications'	<u>Value for Money</u> Working strategically with key organisations/sectors in Dacorum will help us to deliver best possible value for money

	to our community. The plan will enable the Destination Dacorum Board to focus efforts in the most necessary areas of need.
Risk Implications	<p>Dacorum Borough Council has a statutory requirement to have a Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS): The Dacorum Partnerships' SCS, 'Towards 2021' was due for refresh in 2011. With the changing environment it was decided not to proceed with the refresh. We therefore need a new strategy. If approval is not given, there is a risk that we will not have a current SCS.</p> <p>In addition, it is important that the Destination Dacorum Board has a focus to their work – whilst they must also be empowered to act strategically, it is important to show that they are delivering benefits for Dacorum. If they do not have a document to work to, there is a risk that the partnership will be considered to lack 'added value'.</p>
Equalities Implications	There are no specific equalities implications related to this report
Health And Safety Implications	There are no specific health and safety implications related to this report
Monitoring Officer/S.151 Officer Comments	<p>Deputy Monitoring Officer:</p> <p>Pursuant to the Local Government Act 2000 (as amended) the Council is required to have a Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS). The proposed Destination Dacorum Plan is intended to fulfil the Council's legal requirements.</p> <p>S.151 Officer</p> <p>No additional comments to add to the report.</p>
Consultees:	<p><i>External</i></p> <p>Destination Dacorum Partners. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hertfordshire Constabulary</li> <li>• Hertfordshire County Council</li> <li>• NHS Hertfordshire</li> <li>• Community Action Dacorum (on behalf of Voluntary Sector)</li> <li>• FFEI (on behalf of Private Sector and Maylands Business Partnership)</li> </ul> <p><i>Internal</i></p> <p>Assistant Directors</p> <p>CMT</p>

	David Gill – Group Manager, Partnerships and Citizen Insight
Background papers:	
Glossary of acronyms and any other abbreviations used in this report:	<p><i>LSP – Local Strategic Partnership</i></p> <p><i>SCS – Sustainable Community Strategy</i></p> <p><i>CAA – Comprehensive Area Assessment</i></p> <p><i>LAA – Local Area Agreement</i></p>

## BACKGROUND

1. The Dacorum Partnership finished meeting at the end of 2011 and it was agreed that Destination Dacorum would be the new approach to strategic partnership working in Dacorum. The Destination Dacorum Board comprises representatives of the key organisations/sectors in Dacorum who come together to discuss strategic issues and deliver actions to ensure that Dacorum is a great place to live, work and enjoy<sup>1</sup>. Dacorum Borough Council and the Destination Dacorum Board have shared their commitment to partnership working, particularly during this challenging time for the public sector and the economy in general.
2. The Destination Dacorum Board has produced a Plan which has been produced developed collaboratively between the partners. It articulates how each organisation will contribute to making Dacorum a better place to live, work and enjoy. Whilst covering strategic and long term issues, it also articulates some actions which each representative organisation/sector will commit to in order to address the key focus of Destination Dacorum, which is Economic Well-being.
3. This Plan, if approved, will fulfil Dacorum Borough Council’s statutory requirement for a Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS).

## NATIONAL PICTURE/STATUTORY REQUIREMENT

4. The coalition government have removed many of the past drivers for LSP business such as CAA and LAAs, and establishments such as the Audit Commission and Government Offices. Because of this, most partnerships of this nature have either been wound-up or undergone review. Destination Dacorum has taken a confident approach to its way forward, seizing the opportunity to change, making sure that the partnership model used is the best model for Dacorum. This includes adopting a Plan which shows an ability to demonstrate added value through partnership working: lifting the bureaucracy and shifting to a more strategic position, also showing where the partnership ‘adds value’ and delivers real outcomes which matter to Dacorum.
5. Currently, the statutory position is that the original requirement in section four of the Local Government Act 2000 (LGA) remains in place which was later

---

<sup>1</sup> The Destination Dacorum partners are: Dacorum Borough Council, Hertfordshire Constabulary, Hertfordshire County Council, NHS Hertfordshire, Community Action Dacorum (on behalf of Voluntary Sector), FFEI (on behalf of Private Sector and Maylands Business Partnership)

amended by section 114 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. The requirement is that:

1. Every local authority must prepare a strategy for promoting or improving the economic, social and environmental well-being of their area and contributing to the achievement of sustainable development in the United Kingdom.
2. A local authority may from time to time modify their sustainable community strategy
3. In preparing or modifying their sustainable community strategy, a local authority must consult and seek the participation of:
  - a. in the case of a responsible local authority (Dacorum isn't a responsible authority for the purposes of the LGA ), each partner authority and such other persons as the responsible local authority consider appropriate, or
  - b. in any other case (this applies to Dacorum), such persons as the authority consider appropriate, and
  - c. must have regard to any guidance for the time being issued by the Secretary of State.
6. Some other points to consider:
  - There is an expectation that the SCS is reviewed and updated at suitable intervals (no time periods are fixed in the legislation)
  - LSP's and councils are largely free to choose how they go about preparing the SCS provided that they meet the above statutory requirements on consultation
  - Councils and LSP's are free to choose the format and content of their SCS and how they wish to publish the final version
  - The SCS provides a policy framework for other planning processes, such as when setting the core strategy priorities for the Local Development Framework (LDF).
7. Whilst some thought that the statutory position to produce an SCS may be repealed, it hasn't been so yet. Furthermore, repeal is unlikely since sustainable community strategies also form part of the UK's international commitments to sustainable development, originating from the 1992 Rio Earth Summit.

#### **DESTINATION DACORUM PLAN**

8. The Plan is in the format of a leaflet. It is engaging and user friendly – it focuses on the outcomes of Destination Dacorum. There are many other partnerships and organisations in Dacorum which deliver great work – this Plan does not attempt to try to capture information about everything that is going on, rather, it is focussed and to-the-point about what Destination Dacorum will do.
9. Hard copies of the Destination Dacorum Plan will be available at Cabinet. Images of it can also be seen in appendix one of this report.

## **NEXT STEPS**

10. Once prepared, the SCS must be agreed at full council in accordance with the Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) Regulations 2000/2853. The Destination Dacorum Plan is therefore scheduled to go to Full Council in September. It is hoped that the plan will be launched at a Community Fair in September (this event is before Full Council, and therefore it will be launched with the caveat that it is 'subject to Full Council approval').