

**Committee:** Resources  
**Date:** 19 September 2002  
**Agenda Item No:** 6  
**Title:** Funding for Community Strategy  
**Author:** Elizabeth Forbes (01799) 510400

### **Summary**

- 1 This report outlines the current position in relation to the budget for the work on the community strategy and seeks the allocation of additional resources.

### **Background**

- 2 It is a statutory requirement for district and county councils to produce a community strategy working in partnership with key partners in the local community. Members will recall that the Uttlesford Futures Partnership is responsible for producing the strategy. The core group of the Partnership is chaired by Councillor Mrs Caton; Councillors Catherine Dean and Ron Dean and the Chief Executive are also members of the Group. Membership also includes the police, Primary Care Trust, Parish Council, voluntary and business sector representatives. Progress was reported to the Council at its meeting in July.
- 3 The work to date has included holding community conferences in 2000 and 2001 and undertaking the household survey of views on priorities and vision for the district. The core group is now working to produce a draft strategy which will be consulted upon later in the year. It is now therefore possible to estimate the resource implications to complete this programme of work.
- 4 At its meeting in March 2001 the Policy & Resources Committee approved funding of £15,000 for the work on developing the Community Strategy. Of this sum £5,000 was provided by the policy initiatives budget and £10,000 from the Management of Change earmarked reserve. The budget for policy initiatives was deleted from the 2002/03 budget as part of the savings exercise and there is no annual revenue budget to support this work. A sum of £6,720 was used for funding the production and distribution of the Uttlesford Futures household survey in the last financial year.

### **Resource Requirements**

- 5 The balance on the earmarked reserve for 2002/03 stands at £8,280 which is now part of the larger Management of Change reserve. The following table estimates the expenditure for the current financial year

Activity 2002/03	Est Cost (£)
Workshop to consider outcomes of consultation (May 2002)	1000
Printing & distribution of draft strategy (Autumn 2002)	2500
Community conference (early 2003)	1500
Printing & distribution of final strategy (Spring 2003)	<u>8500</u>
Total	13500
Balance of available funding	8280
Shortfall	5220

- 6 Key statutory partners are being approached to see if they would be able to contribute financially to the cost of this work and the police Divisional Commander has already indicated they would be able to make some contribution. This is unlikely to cover the full cost and in order for the necessary work to proceed this Committee is therefore asked to underwrite the cost by meeting the shortfall of up to £5,220 in the current financial year. This sum could be taken from the Management of Change reserve.
- 7 The production of the Community Strategy is an ongoing statutory commitment and a planned annual programme of work will be required to update, publish and monitor the plan. This would include holding an annual community conference. Members are therefore requested to consider the growth item from 2003/04 of £10,000 as an estimated annual cost of this work.

RECOMMENDED that

- 1 the shortfall in the current financial year of up to £5,220 for the production of the community strategy be met from the Council's Management of Change reserve;
- 2 £10,000 be included as a revenue growth item for 2003/04 for consideration when budgets are determined

Background Papers:- None.