

DEVELOPMENT PLAN - LOCALITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP (LAP) REVIEW

Submitted by: Head of Business Improvement and Partnerships – Mark Bailey

Portfolio: Safer and Stronger Communities

Ward(s) affected: All

Purpose of the Report

This paper introduces the Locality Action Partnership Development Plan, requested by Cabinet on 7 September 2011. The development plan builds on the work undertaken as part of the transformation program, previous reports and the Locality Action Partnership Review recommendations submitted to Executive Management, Cabinet and Active and Cohesive Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Cabinet have received and approved the development plan submitted at their meeting held on 19 October 2011.

Recommendations

- (a) That Members note the contents of the report and the contents of the development plan;**
- (b) That Members comment on the actions and milestones contained in the development plan; and**
- (c) That Members note, refer to, and amend the scrutiny brief relating to this report as necessary.**

Reasons

Cabinet approved the Locality Action Partnership review report – The Story of ‘Our Place’ on 7 September 2011 with the caveat that a development plan be put together to support the report. The development plan was requested to enable actions, milestones, leads and timeframes to be clearly set out and to ensure that progress is made and monitored. Cabinet have subsequently approved the Locality Action Partnership Development Plan at their meeting on 19 October 2011

1. Background

Locality Action Partnership Development Plan

- 1.1 The development plan has been constructed following the priority areas, as presented in the recommendation section of the full Locality Action Partnership Review: The Story of ‘Our Place’ report. The priority areas are:
 - GENERAL FUNCTION – Definition, constitution, terms of reference, roles and responsibilities, action planning, ‘step-in’ mechanism, branding, reward scheme and community engagement.
 - RESOURCE – Chairs, community/residents, partners and Councillors
 - COMMUNICATION – Partner, social media, website and newsletter.
 - COMMUNITY PRIDE – Structured approach.
 - FUNDING – Current, future, external and LAP Support.

- 1.2 Actions, milestones, lead/others involved and timeframes form key elements of the development plan. Many of the recommendations are the responsibility of Business Improvement and Partnerships, however, there are a number of actions that will include input from other Borough Council service areas and also from external partners.
- 1.3 There remains challenges in some areas as many of those involved in Locality Action Partnerships give their time on a voluntary basis and therefore some actions will need to be approached with caution.
- 1.4 The development plan has been put together by request of Cabinet at their meeting on 7 September 2011 and incorporates many of the suggestion made throughout the review.

2. **Options Considered**

2.1 **Option A – Support the proposed development plan**

- (i) This option is intended to strengthen and develop the service delivery link to LAPs.

2.2 **Option B – Support the proposed development plan with addition of any additional actions considered important**

- (ii) This option will enable any additional actions that are considered important to the development of LAPs to be included in the planned work.

3. **Proposal**

- 3.1 It is proposed that Active and Cohesive Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee note the contents of the development plan and refer to the scrutiny brief relating to this report.
- 3.2 It is also proposed that Active and Cohesive Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee identify any additional areas of development that they feel may have been missed out of the report.

4. **Reasons for Preferred Solution**

- 4.1 Locality Working has operated in different guises over a number of years and LAPs have been under various review processes since 2007. The current review links into developing policy, strategy and legislation and therefore the recommendations are integral to the ongoing development of LAPs, to ensure delivery against the emerging agendas. Additionally, LAPs are part of the transformation programme and as such have already been highlighted for development.
- 4.2 The recommendations have been identified through detailed consultation with partners, LAP chairs, elected members and the community and attempt to meet a broad range of requirements.

5. **Outcomes Linked to Sustainable Community Strategy and Corporate Priorities**

- 5.1 Locality Action Partnerships were initially developed to deliver local solutions to both Corporate and Sustainable Community Strategy priorities. It is proposed that the LAPs continue to focus on local priorities and deliver against the local Sustainable Community Strategy priorities.

6. **Legal and Statutory Implications**

- 6.1 None at present although the review has established a widely acknowledged opinion that LAPs are a good structure for the emerging agenda. There may be future implications based around the proposed Localism and Decentralisation Bill and other statutory duties.

7. **Equality Impact Assessment**

- 7.1 An Equality Impact Assessment of the review has been completed and is available. The review has not raised any specific issues relating to equality, however, the recommendations in the partnership report have areas of work that have potential relevance to equality and they will be identified and impact assessed.

8. **Financial and Resource Implications**

- 8.1 Locality Action Partnerships were allocated £5,000 each to develop local solutions to issues with the community. Funding was identified as a priority area as part of the review and therefore will need consideration. A separate paper relating to this issue is being submitted by the Head of Business Improvement and Partnerships.

- 8.2 The review has a number of recommendations that require officer time both from the Business Improvement and Partnerships team and other departments across the borough council. Current administration support to the LAPs is provided by a LAP Administration Assistant who's Fixed Term Contract is due to end in March 2012. This is currently being investigated by the Head of Business Improvement and Partnerships and therefore may be a future decision item.

9. **Major Risks**

- 9.1 The GRACE risk assessment for Locality Action Partnerships is currently being reviewed and is being linked with the wider Newcastle Partnership risks. Two areas of potential future risk are the emerging gaps in Big Society and the delivery against the proposed Localism and Decentralisation Bill.

10. **Sustainability and Climate Change Implications**

- 10.1 As one of the Sustainable Community Strategy priorities, where possible issues are identified by individual Locality Action Partnerships relating to sustainability and climate change and the work is subsequently linked to the Newcastle Partnership Sustainable Development group.

11. **Key Decision Information**

- 11.1 This item is included in the forward plan.

12. **Earlier Cabinet/Committee Resolutions**

5 September 2007 – Partnership and Neighbourhood Working
20 February 2008 – Ward Councillors and community leadership
17 February 2010 – Developing Locality Working
7 September 2011 – Locality Action Partnership Review – The Story of 'Our Place'
19 October 2011 – Locality Action Partnership Development Plan - Cabinet

13. **List of Appendices**

- 13.1 Appendix A – Locality Action Partnership Development Plan
Appendix B – Brief for Scrutiny – Review of Locality Action Partnership Review

14. **Background Papers**

- 14.1 None.