

NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO CABINET

25TH MARCH 2015

Title: Locality Action Partnerships (LAPs) – further development

Submitted by: Sarah Moore – Partnerships Manager

Portfolios: Communications, Policy and Partnerships
Leisure, Culture and Localism

Ward(s) affected: All

Purpose of the Report

The report presents, following a previous report to Cabinet in October 2014, progress reports from each of the nine Locality Action Partnerships (LAPs), highlighting their achievements during the last twelve months in relation to the three key strategic themes prioritised by the Borough Council and its partners, namely:

- Health and Well-being
- Economic Development
- Stronger and Safer Communities

To seek Cabinet approval for the further development and ongoing support to LAPs in the nine localities across the Borough.

Recommendations

The report recommends that Cabinet:

- **Acknowledges and endorses the progress reports produced by each of the nine Locality Action Partnerships (LAPs), which highlights their achievements during the last twelve months.**
- **Continues to support the work of the LAPs in the nine localities across the Borough and assists in enabling them to continue to contribute to the delivery of the Council's Co-operative Strategy through further development.**
- **Challenges the LAPs to;**
 - **proactively engage and contribute to Regeneration and Economic Development activity with Council Officers;**
 - **continue to share information, disseminate good practice and raise awareness of activity through the LAP Chairs group;**
 - **report further progress and activities back to Cabinet in 12 months to contribute to a further review of Council support.**

Reasons

One of the Council's key corporate priorities is becoming a co-operative council. A key element of co-operative working is focused on locality working – recognising diversity of the Borough's different localities and working with these communities in understanding their needs and issues and developing solutions to address these needs and deliver practical solutions. In order to deliver this priority it is necessary to ensure that the Borough's nine Locality Action Partnerships (LAPs) are supported to work effectively to facilitate local performance and delivery.

1. Background

- 1.1 Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council has committed to, as one of its four corporate priorities, becoming a co-operative council and wants to work with partners towards making Newcastle-under-Lyme a co-operative Borough.
- 1.2 The Co-operative Strategy outlines the community leadership role for the Borough Council, working with other agencies and communities to deliver change and to ensure that people are able to influence issues, priorities and activities in their localities.
- 1.3 The Council has placed locality working at the heart of its priority to work co-operatively, as locality working empowers communities to develop their own approaches to dealing with issues affecting their own localities and enhances partnership working.
- 1.4 In the Borough, the Newcastle Partnership is the local strategic partnership. The Partnership represents the different sectors in Borough and plays a vital role in bringing together a range of organisations with a shared purpose through co-operative and co-ordinated joint working that will improve the social, economic and environmental wellbeing in the Borough.
- 1.5 Locality Action Partnerships (LAPs) represent the Newcastle Partnership's established infrastructure for the delivery of locality working and offer communities access to a range of partners to address and deliver against local needs and priorities. In addition, LAPs assist in community engagement and empowerment and play a part in the achievement of improved community cohesion. There are nine LAPs in the Borough, which are made up of a range of partners from the public, private, community and voluntary sectors with an interest in their local area.
- 1.6 Following a report to Cabinet in October 2014, LAPs were challenged to produce progress reports to highlight their activity over the last 12 months contributing to the strategic priorities for the Borough Council and its partners, which are;
- Health and Well-being
 - Economic Development
 - Stronger and Safer Communities
- 1.7 It was agreed that the progress reports would be reviewed by the Borough Council towards the end of the 2014/15 and a report would be brought back to Cabinet for consideration. It was also agreed that these reports would form the basis for the contribution to the further development of LAPs on the part of the Borough Council and its' partners in the Newcastle Partnership, including the LAPs future role in the administration of grants such as Community Chest.

2. Summary of LAPs Progress

- 2.1 Each of the nine LAPs produced a progress report as requested by the Borough Council, see Appendix A.
- 2.2 The key achievements for the LAPs during 2014 can be summarised as;
- Three of the LAPs have facilitated merges reducing the number of LAPs from eleven to nine.
 - All LAPs have had an AGM and confirmed the Chair/Vice Chair and signatory positions/arrangements.
 - Eight of the nine LAPs are fully constituted with bank accounts.
 - £76,851.48 external funding has been brought into the Borough by the LAPs.
 - Roadshows have been delivered in each of the LAP areas.
 - All of the nine LAPs have refreshed their Action Plans, into a consistent format, with actions identified following consultation.
 - One of the LAPs has piloted administering the Community Chest grants on behalf of the Borough Council via a sub group.
 - 5 of the nine LAPs have participated in training delivered by VAST which has included project planning and outcomes and funding, to assist with their role in delivering practical partnership solutions to address local needs.
- 2.3 It was reported that the following challenges have been encountered;
- Difficulties engaging with the wider community in a number of areas.
 - Lack of engagement in a number of areas from health partners.
 - Closure of community facilities e.g. libraries, youth centres and children centres.
 - Misunderstanding or lack of understanding of what LAPs do / unrealistic expectations.
 - Limited funding opportunities for some activities.
 - Responding to key issues and hotspots.
- 2.4 The LAPs reported the following regarding partnership participation;
- 2.4.1 Strengths identified included;
- All LAPs reported that they received support and involvement from key partners such as the Borough Council, County Council, Police, Aspire and Staffordshire Fire and Rescue.
 - LAPs reported that they received and provided support and involvement from Resident Associations, Schools, Councillors, local churches, local businesses and Town and Parish Councils.
- 2.4.2 Areas for improvement highlighted;
- Some LAPs reported the need to better engage with local businesses, schools, Councillors, community groups, doctors surgeries and other health professionals.
 - Some of the LAPs reported difficulties with relationships with their Parish Councils, which it was suggested was because of a misunderstanding of the role of a LAP.
 - The majority of LAPs reported the need to improve relationships in the localities with health partners.
 - The majority of LAPs agreed that more promotion of LAPs was required in their communities to raise the profile of their work.
- 2.4.3 It is clear that partnership participation varies in each of the nine localities and there are lessons learned which can be shared between the LAPs to enhance existing partnerships. Further support for the LAPs is required to nurture existing relationships

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and to instigate new contacts to assist in partnership working e.g. health providers, schools and faith groups.

2.5 The following activities were reported as having have been delivered by the LAPs during 2014;

Name of LAP	Health and Wellbeing	Economic Development	Stronger and Safer
Audley	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WWI centenary event at Apedale. • African drumming project with schools. • Community consultation and open day at Audley Community Centre. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restorative Justice Project at Audley Allotments • Contribution to Community Safety awareness and ASB operations in Audley village • Community litter group • Responding to local community safety and environmental issues.
Betley, Keele and Madeley	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health event to raise awareness of issues in the community and provide advice and signposting • Dog show event to raise awareness of the effects of dog fouling. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upcycle project (with funding from the PCC) • WWI centenary event at RAF Cosford for young people • Responding to local community safety and environmental issues • Initiating activities for young people to prevent ASB.
Butt Lane and Talke	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mucky ducky dog fouling campaign. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demolition of the Woodshuts pub. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demolition of the Woodshuts pub • Freeport Roadshow • Local Clean ups (see attached report at Appendix A) • Progress with Reginald Mitchell Peace • Responding to local community safety and environmental issues.
East Newcastle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gating project 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gating Project • Calendar • Responding to local community safety and environmental issues.
Greater Chesterton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cooking on a budget • Fairy Jobmother • Lunchtime supervisor training • Fuel Poverty Advice Sessions • Range of volunteers' training • Community Newsletter • Health event 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jobs Clubs • Money Advice Sessions • Fairy Jobmother • Fuel Poverty Advice Sessions • Cooking on a budget • Sponsorship to local community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Litter picks • Estate walkabouts • Buzz in Fridays project • Community Safety equipment in response to crime hotspots e.g. purse bells, wheelie bin locks and window and door locks for reassurance.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Love Parks event • Sports Day Chesterton Park • Neighbourhood advice surgeries • Community consultation at a range of locations to inform action plan. • Respect group established to plan and co-ordinate range of community events and activities with team of community volunteers. • Handball programme • Holiday club diversionary activity programme • Football and Dance sessions at the Vision • Christmas event. 	<p>groups via Community Chest and other partners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Credit Union project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Halloween diversion activity project • Chesterton Dandelion project (outdoor play) • Community Tool hire scheme (PCC funding obtained). • WWI Memorial renovation. • Administration of the Community Chest on behalf of NBC. • Crime sub group establish to respond to Community Safety issues and hotspots in the Community • Responding to community environmental issues • Providing feedback to planning consultations.
Kidsgrove	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LAP Roadshow 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partnership working with Kidsgrove Town Centre Partnership 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Impact day – October 2014 • Birchenwood barriers • Community engagement events • Shed alarms project in response to Community Safety hotspots • Responding to local community safety and environmental issues..
Newcastle Rural	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rural Youth Project 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responding to local community safety and environmental issues.
Newcastle South	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warmth for all project – fuel poverty 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 a side football sessions • Boxing for young people • Community speed watch project • Responding to local community safety and environmental issues.
Partnership of Western Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community consultation at range of Community locations to inform the Action Plan. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Football and Health and Beauty diversionary activities for young People. • Pavillion Restorative Justice project and launch event. • Awareness raising for community safety hotspots issues • Responding to local community safety and environmental issues.

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- 2.5.1 It is clear that the LAPs have previously focussed on activities around Health and Wellbeing and Stronger and Safer Communities, which may be attributable to the availability of funding and volunteers to assist in these areas. Another reason may be because of the availability of information through partners, media and formal statistics. A range of small grants are readily available to use to respond to well-being and community safety initiatives and the LAPs are able to influence the inputs and contributions of partners in responding to these community needs.
- 2.5.2 A lack of access to funding for economic development may be a reason for a lack of activity in this area over the last year. This may however improve over the coming months due to changes to the Welfare Reform environment and a focus from partners on the importance of the financial inclusion agenda, which may present opportunities for the LAPs to explore for the benefit of their residents, particularly for those some of the Borough deprived wards or those in a more rural location with access difficulties.
- 2.5.3 Although the LAPs have begun to seek and obtain funding to deliver activities in their own right, it is evident that there is much more work to be done. Activities over the last 12 months have focused on formalising the groups and focusing them on the task of delivery for the benefit of the wider community. That said, the LAPs now need to focus on responding to local needs and becoming more ambitious with obtaining and influencing additional resources at a local level. This will need further support from a range of partners to increase LAPs awareness and confidence for continued improvement.
- 2.5.4 It is important to recognise that the LAPs have and continue to evolve and develop at different paces, this may be attributable to differences in community leadership, partners involvement, appetite and involvement of the community and how local needs are being presented and considered. All of the LAPs have action plans for 2015 and beyond, which have been created in a consistent format so that areas of similarity can be brought together for further joint working if appropriate.

3. Options Considered

- 3.1 Option A - that Cabinet acknowledges and endorses the progress reports produced by each of the nine Locality Action Partnerships (LAPs), highlighting their achievements during the last twelve months and continues to support the work of the LAPs across the Borough to assist in enabling them to continue to contribute to the delivery of the Council's Co-operative Strategy (recommended).
- 3.2 Option B – that Cabinet does not endorse the reports and withdraws support for LAPs to continue to develop and deliver in their respective localities. This is not recommended because the Council would not have a mechanism to deliver the Co-operative Council objectives through locality working with communities.

4. Proposal and Reason for Preferred Solution

- 4.1 This report presents to Cabinet, the nine LAP progress reports produced by the LAP Chairs to demonstrate their contributions made to partnership working on the key strategic issues of health and well-being; economic development; and developing stronger and safer communities in the Borough.
- 4.2 This report recommends that a further commitment is made by Cabinet to continue to support the ongoing development of the LAPs, which will enhance consistency for residents and partnership working in the Borough.

- 4.3 This report recommends that a further challenge the LAPs should be made for them to;
- proactively engage and contribute to Regeneration and Economic Development activity that Council Officers are developing;
 - continue to share information, disseminate good practice and raise awareness of activity through the LAP Chairs group;
 - report further progress and activities back to Cabinet in 12 months to contribute to a further review of Council support.

5. Outcomes Linked to Corporate Priorities

- 5.1 The recommendations above contribute to all of the Council's Corporate Priorities namely; Healthy and Active Communities, a Cleaner, Safer and Sustainable Borough, a Borough of Opportunity and Delivering a Co-operative Council.

6. Legal and Statutory Implications

- 6.1 There are no specific legal or statutory implications for consideration within this report.

7. Equality Impact Assessment

- 7.1 There are no adverse equality issues identified as arising from this report.

8. Financial and Resource Implications

- 8.1 There are no additional specific financial implications or commitments required for the implementation of these recommendations.

- 8.2 There are resource implications for Borough Council Officers and Members as part of their substantive duties who will continue to provide support to contribute to the development of the Locality Action Partnerships in relation to these recommendations. These implications include officer time in both the Partnerships Team and also in other departments across the Borough Council.

9. Major Risks

- 9.1 In the event of an adverse decision the Council may be unable to deliver the Corporate Priorities effectively without a mechanism to support the further development of locality working in the Borough.

10. Key Decision Information

- 10.1 This report can be considered key in the following ways: -

- It results in the Borough Council committing existing resources for the function to which the decision relates and;
- It is significant because it affects more than two or more electoral wards in the Borough.

11. Earlier Cabinet/Committee Resolutions

- 11.1 Locality Action Partnerships (LAPs) – further development – October 2014

12. List of Appendices

- 12.1 Appendix A – Progress Reports for ;
- Audley LAP
 - Butt Lane and Talke LAP
 - Betley, Keele and Madeley LAP
 - East Newcastle LAP
 - Greater Chesterton LAP
 - Kidsgrove LAP
 - Newcastle Rural LAP
 - Newcastle South LAP
 - Partnership of Western Communities LAP

A copy of these is available on request from the Partnerships Team.

13. Background Papers

- 13.1 None

Implications included	Head of Service agreed report, signed & dated	Financial Implications signed & dated	Legal & risk implications signed & dated
Financial			
Legal			
Risk			
Director Sign Off			