

Willenhall Local Neighbourhood Partnership – 25th July 2006

Local Neighbourhood Agreement

Purpose of the Report

This report seeks to inform the Local Neighbourhood Partnership of the Local Neighbourhood Agreement developments and seeks approval from the LNP to publish the pledges in a Local Neighbourhood Agreement document.

Recommendations

The LNP is asked to:

- (a) Note the current developments around the Neighbourhood Agreement
- (b) Note the finalised pledges

Background

Over the past few months the Local Neighbourhood Partnership members, members of the public and service deliverers have attended a series of workshops to develop local pledges for the Neighbourhood Partnership.

The pledges will form the focus for action for 2006-2007, both through the Local Neighbourhood Partnership and the Community Action Groups.

Pledges

At the last meeting of the Local Neighbourhood Partnership the partnership agreed the following pledges:

1. Reduce Anti Social Behaviour in Willenhall by 18% over the next 3 years
2. to make the area more attractive and free from litter
3. to keep up to date and influence future developments

Local Neighbourhood Agreement

The agreed pledges will be published in a 'Local Neighbourhood Agreement' Document, which will be distributed to LNP members and service deliverers in August. It will also be available to members of the public and be accessible via the council website.

The Local Neighbourhood Agreement document will include the following:

- Vision of the LNP
 - Recent Successes
 - Governance
 - Key priorities
 - Process and how to get involved
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- Dates of community action groups and LNP meetings
- Partners sign up sheet

Contact Officers

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Cabinet – 14 June 2006

Local Neighbourhood Agreements

Portfolio:	Councillor Garry Perry, Safer stronger communities, Partnerships and Vision 2021
Service:	Neighbourhood partnerships and programmes
Wards:	All
Key decisions:	No
Forward plan:	Yes

Summary of report

This report provides a synopsis of the key pledges and areas for action in each of the nine local neighbourhood partnerships. They have all produced a neighbourhood agreement in consultation with their members, representatives from community organisations and Council service areas that capture how they plan to make a difference in their area over the next 12 months. The section on resource and legal implications describes how the local neighbourhood agreements will be the tool for evidencing how the Local Area Agreement targets will be delivered in the locality. The contents of the proposed Local Neighbourhood Agreements will also be submitted to the WBSP (Walsall Borough Strategic Partnership).

Recommendation

That Cabinet approves the key pledges and priority areas for action in each of the local neighbourhood partnerships.

Resource and legal considerations

The local neighbourhood agreements contain priority actions that have been developed in response to local engagement through the LNP and their community action groups. Service providers are engaging with representatives from community, voluntary and residents' groups to develop local solutions to local issues raised. This work in the locality is influencing the development of commissions through the pillar group structures of WBSP.

The Safer and Stronger Communities pillar has identified resources to be targeted at LNP areas to deliver actions that will reduce crime and fear of crime, improve the local environment and engage local groups in delivering some of the activities. This will link to and assist in achieving the Council's pledge for each LNP to identify three

environmental improvements in their area to support the delivery of the Local Area Agreement.

Resource is also being made available to produce environmental action plans for LNPs building on the good practice developed through Darlaston LNP. LNP members and community representatives participated in a local bus tour, taking photographs and gathering evidence of sites and locations that need to be improved. From this they have produced an action plan that prioritises areas for action and which service areas are using to draw in resources to improve identified hot spots across Darlaston.

LNPs received pump priming funding of £250,000 from the Council in 2005/06. Some resources remain and can be committed against the pledges they have identified for 2006/07. An additional £100,000 will be made available from the Council in 2006/07 to be utilised by LNPs to deliver further priority actions in their area.

The detail of the pledges and priority areas for action (shown below) has been shared with Council service areas and other agencies such as the tPCT and Education Walsall. Direct access to key Council services has been enabled through the creation of virtual neighbourhood teams supported by the neighbourhood partnerships team and the new senior support officers. In the longer term this will result in the LNPs being able to influence how public services are delivered in their locality in a more systematic and co-ordinated way.

Citizen impact

The Local Neighbourhood Agreements capture local issues and concerns and prioritise areas for action, ensuring those likely to achieve a high level of impact in a short timescale are delivered quickly. The LNPs bring citizens and service providers together with a range of community leaders to agree on how best to deliver services at a local level to achieve the 2008 Vision and Walsall's Community Plan. The LNP community action groups, as well as the main LNP meetings, engage and involve local residents, community and voluntary groups and young people in deciding on priorities for their area.

Pledges have been developed around the four Local Area Agreement themes of safer and stronger communities, children and young people, healthier communities and the economy and enterprise through a series of workshops and task group meetings held from September 2005 to March 2006. A summary of the pledges and priority areas for action across all LNPs is given below:

- Increase activities for children and young people, with a particular focus on those under 13 years
- Consider alternative ways to deliver youth services in consultation with young people
- Support more visible actions to reduce the level of anti-social behaviour
- Improve the condition and cleanliness of the alleyways
- Improve the bus services available in the area
- Promote and raise awareness of activities available for older people to encourage greater participation
- Promote awareness of sexually transmitted diseases
- Promote and increase the level of recycling
- Improve the appearance of grass verges
- Reduce the level of illegal parking around schools
- Improve open spaces and make them more attractive

- Reduce the amount of litter in targeted areas
- Improve public health and the local environment
- Maximise opportunities for local people to benefit from regeneration initiatives (such as the URC)
- Maximise the use of leisure and community facilities across the area
- Improve screening facilities for both males and females
- Tackle health inequalities
- Engage more young people in decision making

Specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and timely (SMART) actions are being developed in consultation with local service providers and other agencies which will be published in the individual Local Neighbourhood Agreements over the summer. This will demonstrate the commitment of the Council and other agencies to working with LNPs and improving service delivery in the locality.

Community safety

The LNPs provide the Council with the opportunity to consult with local people on issues relating to crime and disorder. This local perspective is used to inform the content of the borough wide Crime and Disorder Strategy and create targets to reduce crime and fear of crime in Walsall in specific areas of the borough. Clear links have been established across all nine areas with the Safer Walsall Borough Partnership (SWBP). A representative from this partnership supports the work of the individual LNPs around crime and community safety. In addition, the collation of crime data has been aligned to the LNP boundaries which has facilitated joined up working at a local level with a range of partners through the Community Safety Intervention Group.

Environmental impact

Initial priority areas for action developed in 2005/06 have contributed significantly towards achieving a clean and green borough. The LNPs are delivering local environmental actions (such as clean ups, new open spaces, raising environmental awareness) and by involving local stakeholders are improving each area's opportunity to deliver sustainable solutions with longer term impact and benefit. The environmental issues and areas of concern also link to crime and community safety, housing and education. These areas incorporate the government's drive to create cleaner, greener and safer neighbourhoods.

Performance and risk management issues

Each neighbourhood agreement will be managed and monitored by the LNPs with support from the neighbourhood partnerships team and the Walsall Borough Strategic Partnership's (WBSP) Shared Partnership Information Resource (SPIR). This will evidence and track change in key LAA targets within LNP boundaries. Progress reports will be published annually by the LNP and made available to the public, as well as being presented to the WBSP Board and Cabinet.

Equality implications

An important underpinning value of LNPs is the commitment to engage all sections of the community and to ensure that all contributions are valued. An equalities impact assessment was undertaken in 2005/06 by the neighbourhood partnerships team on the current membership profiles of LNPs. The assessment identified real and perceived inequalities in the representation of local communities in the LNP process, focusing on issues of age, ethnicity, gender and disability and recommended ways to improve relationships and build trust with all members of the community to decrease and eliminate equality gaps in community engagement at the LNP level in ways appropriate to each group. An action plan is being implemented as part of delivering WBSP's community engagement strategy.

Consultation

As part of the multi-agency community engagement strategy, a joint calendar of activities detailing a range of events that will take place over the next 12 months is being pulled together, building on the community safety events organised by the Safer Walsall Borough Partnership in March and April 2006. The aim of these events is to consult with geographic, thematic and interest communities on the difference the LNP is making to their area and to seek their views on how to continue to develop the work of the partnership.

Vision 2008

The feedback from LNP consultation events and the tracking of improvements at a local level (through improved performance data) will gather evidence of how the Council is listening to what local people want and taking action in response to this. The results from the last Tracker Survey have been used to develop tracker action plans focused on those areas indicating less satisfaction with some Council services.

The Council's pledges for 2006/07 include Local Neighbourhood Partnerships each identifying three specific environmental improvements, important to their area, to support the Local Area Agreement.

Background papers

- Report to Cabinet – 14 September 2003, Consultation on Local Governance Arrangements in Walsall
- Report to Council – 12 January 2004, Leader of the Council's Proposals for the Establishment of Nine Local Neighbourhood Partnerships
- Report to council – 19 April 2004, Local Neighbourhood Partnerships
- Report to Cabinet – 12 May 2004, Local Neighbourhood Partnerships (LNPs) – Progress Update
- Report to Cabinet – 14 July 2004, Local Neighbourhood Partnerships: Guidelines on Selection Processes for Locally Appointed Partners (LAPs)
- Report to Cabinet – 19 January 2005, Implementing Local Neighbourhood Partnerships
- Report to Cabinet – 23 March 2005, Local Neighbourhood Partnership Plans

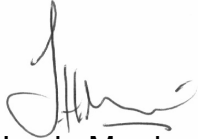
- Report to Council – 24 April 2006, Proposal to consider revised governance arrangements for Local Neighbourhood Partnerships.

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2 June 2006



Councillor Garry Perry
Portfolio holder

2 June 2006