

Cabinet – 28 February 2007

LNP Development Plan

Portfolio: Councillor G Perry, Safer Stronger Communities, Partnerships and Vision 2021

Service: Neighbourhood Partnerships and Programmes

Wards: All

Key decisions: No

Forward plan: No

Summary of report

This report outlines the proposed development plan for LNPs to assist in moving them forward following their move from the Council's constitution to that of Walsall Borough Strategic Partnership. This plan has been drawn up by the Council with support from Walsall Borough Strategic Partnership and Government Office West Midlands.

Recommendation

That the LNP development plan be agreed.

Resource and legal considerations

The estimated cost of the programme (attached as an appendix) is £22,000. Funding is available to the Council from Government Office West Midlands (GOWM) to cover all costs involved.

Further resources are likely to be available from GOWM subject to their confirmation. This can be used by the Council for supplementary work and any additional workshops or mentoring sessions identified through the initial sessions.

Citizen impact

Following the move of LNPs from the Council's constitution to that of Walsall Borough Strategic Partnership (WBSP), it has been noted by partners and GOWM the need to implement a development programme in order to improve the way that LNPs work.

During the latter part of 2006 GOWM representatives attended a number of LNP meetings to assist WBSP and the Council with identifying areas for further development support following this move. A number of key areas were identified to focus on:

- direction from the WBSP to the LNPs in moving forward
- improving structures, processes and relationships
- clarifying roles and responsibilities of individual LNP members
- embedding the relevant LAA outcomes into LNP business
- improving communication between LNPs and the wider community
- linking effective engagement of LNPs to the refresh and review of the Community Plan and LAA.

This view was endorsed by WBSP at its Board meeting in September 2006.

The programme (attached as an appendix) represents the first stage in a development plan for LNPs and was approved by the WBSP Board on 22 January 2007. It is proposed to cover:

1. **Vision** – Discuss and understand a shared vision and picture of LNPs in the context of external drivers.
2. **Use of Intelligence/local knowledge** – Create an understanding and the capacity to use information to enhance performance and monitoring.
3. **Community Cohesion** – Create an understanding of the role of LNPs in contributing to community cohesion.
4. **Partnership development** – Re-visit progress and define the characteristics of successful partnerships and create the capacity to understand the basics of working together.
5. **Self assessment** - LNPs to respond and reflect on their development and test/benchmark itself against the characteristics of successful partnerships.
6. **Further support, understanding and development** – Personal support and development for LNP chairs, and creating understanding and capacity with Council virtual neighbourhood teams.

It is proposed to use an external facilitator for each session, to create a sense of continuity and build a picture for LNPs about their development and where it is taking them. A core group of people will be invited to attend (LNP Chairs and Vice Chairs, Community Action Group Chairs, LNP Chairs Forum partners, Councillors, senior support officers, LNP team and WBSP Chair and Vice Chairs).

Workshop 5 is a session for individual LNPs and the last workshop is an opportunity to develop the skills of the LNP Chairs and staff supporting neighbourhood service delivery as part of the Council's virtual neighbourhood teams.

The estimated cost of the programme to date is £22,000 which is well within the budget available. GOWM have previously received a copy of the draft programme to confirm that we can run sessions beyond March 2007.

Subject to availability of the facilitator and key speakers it is planned to start the programme in mid-February and end with the final session in early May.

The development plan will be complimented by a communications plan for LNPs to improve the accessibility of information to the community and widen the promotion and celebration of good news stories. This will be developed by the LNP team with support from WBSP staff and other partners involved in the WBSP communication group with the intention of bringing a report back to a future Cabinet and WBSP Board meetings.

Community safety

There are no direct community safety implications. The LNPs will be able to more effectively decide on local priorities and the focus of resources and activities following the sessions on use of local intelligence.

Environmental impact

There is no direct environmental impact.

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). There is a specific session on use of intelligence to improve the understanding and use of performance management tools by the LNPs.

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. A separate workshop on community cohesion will create a better understanding of the role LNPs can play in improving and sustaining community cohesion in their neighbourhood.

Consultation

WBSP partners, GOWM and LNP Chairs were invited to comment on the draft development programme.

Vision 2008

The development of LNPs will further strengthen the Council's ability to listen to what local people want and take action in response to this.

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.
- Report to Cabinet – 24 June 2006, Local Neighbourhood Agreements

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Jamie Morris
Executive Director

19 February 2007



Councillor Garry Perry
Portfolio Holder

19 February 2007



Local Neighbourhood Partnership Development Training

Programme (ODPM funded)

| Session and Links | Objectives | Audience | Timescales | INPUT - Facilitator |
|--|---|--|---|---|
| 1. Vision – White paper, Walsall community engagement strategy and role | To discuss and understand a shared vision and picture of LNPs in the context of external drivers | Councillors (incl,group leaders) LNP Chairs and Vice Chairs (Key partners) CAG Chairs Senior Support Officers LNP Team Chairs forum partners LSP chair/vice chairs | <i>1 March 2007</i> Session timescales: 6-8pm | Bruce Gilbert, Clive Wright, GOWM (Alistair/Rosie), Julie Ball Facilitator: David McGrath from Link Support Services (UK) Ltd |
| 2. Use of Intelligence/local knowledge – SPIR team, Evidence based decision making, Perceptions, Indicators/targets – delivery LAA, | Create an understanding and the capacity to use information to enhance performance and monitoring | Councillors LNP Chairs and Vice Chairs (Key partners) CAG Chairs Senior Support Officers LNP Team | <i>9 March 2007</i> Session Timescales: 6-8pm | Vanessa Holding, Tim Ferguson, David Bloomfield Facilitator: David McGrath |

| Session and Links | Objectives | Audience | Timescales | INPUT - Facilitator |
|---|---|--|--|---|
| Community intelligence | | | | |
| 3. Community Cohesion – Equality Partnership | To create an understanding of the role of LNPs in contributing to community cohesion. | Councillors (incl,group leaders) LNP Chairs and Vice Chairs (Key partners) Senior Support Officers LNP Team CAG Chairs | <i>Middle of March 2007</i> | National input (leadership/cultural school), Sue James to contribute Facilitator: Ted Cantle |
| 4.Partnership development – Vision, Charter/Neighbourhood Agreement, Charter, Community empowerment, Self assessment, Values/Code of Conduct CAG's Role of Partners Communications, promote message | To re-visit progress and define the characteristics of successful partnerships and create the capacity to understand the basics of working together | Smaller group (Core Team) consisting of: Group Leaders LNP Chairs Vice Chairs CAG Chairs Senior Support Officers LNP Team Optional – key partners | <i>27 March 2007</i> <i>Session timescales:</i> <i>6-8pm</i> | -Facilitator: David McGrath |
| 5. Self assessment | LNPs to respond and reflect on the Development of LNPs and test/benchmark itself against the characteristics of successful partnerships. | 9 LNPs | 2 April – Aldridge South and Streetly 2 April – Brownhills and Aldridge North 4 April – Darlaston 5 April – Blakenall and | Facilitation : Creative development Team (Glen Buglass) and SSO's |

| Session and Links | Objectives | Audience | Timescales | INPUT - Facilitator |
|---|--|---|--|--|
| | | | Bloxwich 11 April – Palfrey and Pleck 11 April – Pelsall and Rushall 17 April – Pheasey and Paddock 17 April – Willenhall 25 April – St Matthews, Birchills and Leamore | |
| 6. Further support, understanding and development – putting it all into practice | a. Personal support and development b. Create understanding and capacity with virtual neighbourhood teams | LNP Chairs 9 groups x 13 per group | <i>February – May 2007</i> <i>Beginning of May 2007 (lunch time sessions)</i> | IDeA Coaches to support: £10,000 OD facilitator : |
| | | | | Total so far: £22,000 |