

Subject: Neighbourhood Management

Status: For Publication

Report to:

Policy Overview & Scrutiny

Cabinet

Council

Date:

5th November 2008

3rd December 2008

TBA

Report of:

Deputy Chief Executive

Portfolio Holder: Communities and Neighbourhoods

Key Decision: No – Constitutional changes are a matter for Full Council

Forward Plan

General Exception

Special Urgency

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The report provides a draft framework for the delivery of Neighbourhood Management throughout Rossendale and seeks the views and comments of members of the Policy Overview & Scrutiny Committee.
- 1.2 It is important that this report is seen by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee as a draft to stimulate debate. It is by no means conclusive and nor should it be as the Council wants to ensure it is widely consulted on.

2. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- 2.1 The matters discussed in this report impact directly on the following corporate priorities and associated corporate objective.
- Delivering Quality Services to Customers
 - Delivering Regeneration across the Borough
 - Keeping Our Borough Clean and Green
 - Promoting Rossendale as a cracking place to live and visit
 - Improving health and well being across the Borough
 - Well Managed Council

3. RISK ASSESSMENT IMPLICATIONS

All the issues raised and the recommendation(s) in this report involve risk considerations as set out below:

- 3.1 Not to implement changes to the present Neighbourhood Forum arrangements could severely affect the Council's ability to deliver better outcomes for local people within a focus on strengthening the role of elected members as community champions.
- 3.2 The risk of not implementing the proposal could impact on the Council's ability to attract new and emerging funding as the focus is on allocating resources to authorities that demonstrate strong leadership in developing partnership working with communities and service providers.
- 3.3 Not to implement could affect the Council's ability to improve its overall performance; achieve key internal and external efficiency targets; sustain improved performance standards in localities.

4. BACKGROUND AND OPTIONS

- 4.1 The organisational restructure focused on the principle that Rossendale's approach to Neighbourhood Management needed to be broadened across the Council and its partners.
- 4.2 The Council's key priorities moving into 'Phase Three of the improvement Journey' is to champion the borough and its people through strong community leadership, engagement and partnership working at a local level.
- 4.3 The Rossendale Partnership has developed a Sustainable Community Strategy 2008 – 2018 and the Council has adopted their Corporate Plan 2008 -2011. These are two key strategic documents for Rossendale. They contain a vision, outcomes and a view of what Rossendale will feel like when we get there. The Rossendale Partnership and Council are tasked to ensure they are delivered.
- 4.4 Both strategies will not achieve their vision until the challenging outcomes are translated into service delivery at a local level. The development of 'Place Shaping' Neighbourhood Plans are therefore key to their success.
- 4.5 It will be for the newly shaped Neighbourhood Forum's to articulate what they want achieved in their area but most importantly it will be for them to ensure the aspirations of the community are delivered through a Neighbourhood Plan.
- 4.6 This approach clearly requires a change in the way the Council and its partner's work to enable residents and communities to play a full and active part in shaping their communities.
- 4.7 It is important that Neighbourhood Management is not seen as just a forum meeting that takes place four times a year. It is about the excellent partnership work carried out to improve service delivery in our communities. There has

been a lot achieved which we need to capture and carry forward as part of the refresh.

- 4.8 A view widely expressed is that Neighbourhood Forums are presently seen as a Council function where partners and the community are invited to attend. Public attendance is varied across the forums. The issues raised are often the same eg highways, dog fouling, blocked drains and crime and disorder.
- 4.9 A key principle of the review is to explore the development of a Neighbourhood Forum that is inclusive, where all members are seen as playing an equal and active part.
- 4.10 One of the principle functions of the Neighbourhood Forums will be to develop and implement a Neighbourhood Plan. A standard agenda item on the Neighbourhood Forum will be to discuss how collectively the members can tackle the priorities identified in the Plan.
- 4.11 It is proposed to have a three way membership of the Neighbourhood Forum:
- **Elected Members** for each ward within the defined Neighbourhood Forum areas. This would include County and Town Council
 - **Representative from organisations based in an area.** Such as tenants/residents/community/youth/faith/ business/ schools & children centres organisation based in the area. They will be determined locally through an open and transparent process with clear guidance and criteria.
 - **Locally appropriate service providers.** These would be determined by an assessment of local conditions and could include the council, police, health, Greenvale homes, leisure trust, community network etc.
 - **Support functions:**
 - Adult Social Care/Help Direct
 - LCC Highways
 - Regeneration
 - Highways and transport
 - Environment
 - Schools & Children's Centres

COMMENTS FROM STATUTORY OFFICERS:

5. SECTION 151 OFFICER

- 5.1 It is not envisaged that there will be any additional financial requirements as a result of approving the reports recommendation.

6. MONITORING OFFICER

- 6.1 The Constitutional impact of any new proposals will be the subject of a more detailed report.

7. HEAD OF PEOPLE AND ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (ON BEHALF OF THE HEAD OF PAID SERVICE)

7.1 There are no immediate Human Resource implications.

8. CONCLUSION

8.1 These proposals will support elected members in their role as place shapers and civic leaders by placing them at the heart of a local partnership, focussed on collectively developing the community they represent.

8.2 A robust review of the present arrangements will re-affirm Rossendale Partnership's commitment to empowering residents to work with Elected Members and partners to ensure that local services are effectively focussed on local need.

8.3 Arriving at locally agreed solutions through the development of local Neighbourhood Plans will contribute to the delivery of the Sustainable Community Strategy, Council's Corporate Plan and the strategies and plans of our partners.

8.4 Integration of neighbourhood planning within the overarching Local Strategic Partnership framework will influence and shape the Council's and other partner's strategic plans and the allocation of resources to identified priorities.

8.5 The starting point is to agree the local model for delivery. The proposals set out here represent a clear determination on behalf of the Council, Rossendale Partnership and the community to work more effectively with local people to shape service delivery but most importantly it will allow the partners to benefit from local people's experience of what they do and their aspirations for their community.

9. RECOMMENDATION(S)

9.1 That the members of the Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee feedback their comments, agree with the direction of travel and refer the report to Cabinet and Full Council for ratification and approval.

10. CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

10.1 This process of reviewing the Neighbourhood Forum arrangements is overseen by a Neighbourhood Management Working Group comprising of cross party elected members and senior managers.

10.2 Consultation has been carried out with the following groups/organisations:

- Rossendale Partnership
- Greenvale Homes
- Lancashire Constabulary – Pennine Division
- Rossendale Council's Executive Team

10.3 Arrangement are in place to consult with:

- Local people and community groups on a Neighbourhood Forum footprint
- Primary Care Trust
- LCC

11. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Is an Equality Impact Assessment required No

Is an Equality Impact Assessment attached No

12. BIODIVERSITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Is a Biodiversity Impact Assessment required No

Is a Biodiversity Impact Assessment attached No

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| Background Papers | |
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| Document | Place of Inspection |
| Structural diagram of the Rossendale Partnership | Attached at appendix 1 |

Appendix 1

The Rossendale Partnership

