

PILOTING LOCAL PARTNERSHIPS IN COPELAND

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: Councillor John Bowman, Portfolio Holder
LEAD OFFICER: Julie Betteridge, Head of Development Strategy
REPORT AUTHORS: Julie Betteridge, Sarah Mitchell, Simon Walker

Summary and Recommendation:

Executive are requested to:

- a) confirm their commitment to progressing local partnership and planning infrastructure arrangements through pilots in two geographical localities, Mid and North East, and one sub locality, North West (Howgate);
- b) To endorse the pilot approach as set out in the report whose delivery relies on the commitment that Copeland Borough Councillors will actively participate in the pilots and action learning, including working with existing parish and local partnerships.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Council have previously committed to the principles and model for locality working which enables local democratic governance and partnership working across all tiers. The added value of shared locality plans developed with community and public engagement builds on existing work in local areas. At the core is the opportunity for Localities to focus on influencing strategic and local public service delivery to benefit the economic, social and environmental well being of residents and enable sustainable communities in Copeland. This paper sets out Copeland Borough Council's commitment to piloting locality working. Other tiers, namely Parish, Town and County Council have their own mechanisms to commit to and endorse locality working and have not been requested to endorse the detail in this report.

1.2 Locality working will deliver improvements in two key National Indicators:

NI 4 Percentage of people who feel they can influence decisions in their locality;

NI 5 Overall / general satisfaction with the local area.

2. ARGUMENT

2.1 The council have been leading the first consultation round with Parish and Town councils. This is now complete with general support and

- willingness to progressing locality working through pilots. Earlier discussions with District and County Councillors also supported the pilot approach.
- 2.2 The consultation with parishes identified a strong request from the Howgate Partnership in the North West corner of the borough for their early engagement with the pilots. This is in line with the view identified through the consultations to progress pilots in areas that are ready and willing to engage. The Howgate area is one of the identified sub localities for the Whitehaven service centre focused locality. Their involvement in the pilot phase offers a positive addition to the locality learning and toolkit which will inform the other sub localities in Whitehaven as the pilots roll out across the borough.
- 2.3 Earlier consultations with Copeland and County Councillors reported to Executive in November 2008 with the recommendation agreed by the Executive to progress locality working through pilots.
- 2.3 A locality pilot task and finish group involving all three tiers has been meeting to scope the pilots. This has included representation from the CALC Chairman and Officer. The outcomes are:
- A framework of 10 objectives for locality working (drawn from the working example of the five rivers partnership);
 - A set of principles for locality working in Copeland;
 - A methodology for enhancing and refreshing locality plans as the core tool to underpin priority setting;
 - An action learning framework to enable a) an active approach to learning lessons within and across each pilot area, b) a record of development, and c) a structured sharing of activity and learning with all localities and partners.
- 2.4 Throughout there has been a commitment to build on existing local partnership experience and capacity to progress locality working. All three pilot areas have working partnership arrangements. The pilots will be using these structures and relationships to identify options for the best governance fit in each pilot locality. This reflects the different mix for each area on the need to influence public service delivery against agreed locality priorities, the core of locality working principles, and the local partnership need to actively engage in regeneration delivery. Copeland Borough Council members will be expected to actively engage with these if they do not currently to enable dialogue and discussion of the potential models locally to involve all community leaders and other partners.
- 2.5 Corporate Team are allocating a Head of Service to each locality. The Council has a champion for the pilots through its portfolio holder, Cllr John Bowman.

3. CONCLUSIONS

- 3.1 The Locality Pilot Task Group, involving representatives from all tiers has considered and supported the pilot delivery phase to include the previously supported two localities (North East and Mid) and one sub locality (North West – Howgate). Executive are requested to endorse this approach.
- 3.2 The work to scope the pilots has developed a framework for the pilots to operate within. This will offer consistency whilst enabling each area to investigate with partners how best to operate its locality working governance.
- 3.3 The plan development and governance options and learning from the pilots will be shared and offer a working toolkit for the roll out of locality working infrastructure arrangements across Copeland.

4. FINANCIAL AND HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS (INCLUDING SOURCES OF FINANCE)

- 4.1 £500,000 Working Neighbourhood Fund has been allocated by Executive in August 2008 to develop locality working in Copeland. This resource will be used to enable the three pilot areas through:
 - o resourcing the officer team delivering the pilot support and facilitation;
 - o office space in the Copeland Centre and via local hot desk arrangements funded through the locality WNF resource;
 - o an admin budget being made available to each local partnership to enable local servicing arrangements for locality partnerships to be put in place.

5. PROJECT AND RISK MANAGEMENT

- 5.1 A risk assessment has been undertaken which highlights the two key risks as a) non engagement and no commitment by members from any tier thereby undermining the partnership approach and b) inability to agree a local partnership governance arrangement.
- 5.2 It is anticipated that the Locality Pilot Task Group will move into an advisory role to the pilots from November 2009.. The locality officers group continue to meet monthly.
- 5.3 Appendix D sets out the anticipated timetable for the pilots and their roll out. We are working on an expectation that each pilot locality will take

between three and nine months to consider options and agree their locality governance and refresh their locality plan.

6. IMPACT ON CORPORATE PLAN

- 6.1 This pilot activity underpins a core aim of the Council to provide responsive local services to deliver quality of life and promote prosperity for our residents.
- 6.2 The Corporate Improvement Plan 2009/10 has set a target to deliver at least two locally agreed locality governance arrangement and plans through pilots.

List of Appendices

Appendix A – Principles of Locality Working
Appendix B - Locality Working Objectives
Appendix C - Local Plan methodology
Appendix D - Anticipated locality pilot and roll out timetable

List of Background Documents:

Locality working consultation
Pilot task group and locality working officer group notes

List of Consultees: Cllr Elaine Woodburn, Cllr John Bowman, Cllr Keith Hitchen, Corporate Team

CHECKLIST FOR DEALING WITH KEY ISSUES

Please confirm against the issue if the key issues below have been addressed . This can be by either a short narrative or quoting the paragraph number in the report in which it has been covered.

Impact on Crime and Disorder	Fully supports
Impact on Sustainability	Underpinning principle for locality plans and governance arrangements
Impact on Rural Proofing	Fully supports
Health and Safety Implications	Support
Project and Risk Management	Mechanisms are in place to manage the process and keep continuously aware of local engagement risks.
Impact on Equality and Diversity Issues	Fully supports
Children and Young Persons Implications	Young persons engagement will be looked at through the pilots.
Human Rights Act Implications	Supports

Monitoring Officer Comments	No comment
Section 151 Officer Comments	Revenue resources (from earmarked reserves) have been allocated to fund the locality pilots.

Please say if this report will require the making of a Key Decision NO

APPENDIX A Principles of Locality Working

Councils at all three tiers of government choose to engage in Partnership Working in order to improve the quality of life for their communities and within the following set of principles and guidelines:

Why embrace Partnership Working?

- a. To help to achieve a local structure of decision making to provide services which are more responsive to local needs and priorities;
- b. To enshrine equality, diversity and democracy within local governance structures by empowering community leaders;
- c. To bring continual renewal and regeneration through engaged communities;
- d. To enhance local residents' Quality of Life.

How Partnership Working helps:

- e. By making better links between locally elected members and their communities, enhancing their representative role;
- f. By finding new ways to support citizen participation in local service delivery;
- g. By enhancing co-ordination across the three tiers, minimising bureaucracy, duplication, increasing value for money and personalising services;
- h. By improving communication between those delivering services and those using services, to improve the quality of the service and its value for money;
- i. By creating working arrangements and relationship that enable sustainability long-term.

APPENDIX B Locality Working Objectives

Councils, organisations and individuals come together into Locality Groups to:

- i. Identify common strategic interests where the councils may with advantage be able to act together in an effective way and to make recommendations as to how this can be achieved.
- ii. Identify specific interests relating to the activities of one or more councils where help of information from the other councils may be helpful
- iii. Encourage each council to prepare a Community Led Plan (Parish Plan) if it has not already done so and to consider the possibility of a joint plan covering the area of all the councils
- iv. Provide to the councils information and advice about any funding or grant aid which may be available for any of the above matters
- v. Work with local, regional and national organisations, statutory bodies, commercial organisations and associations, voluntary groups and associations, and with individuals, to encourage, support, initiate and develop new and existing projects/organisations which contribute to the economic, environmental and social well being of the locality area
- vi. Ensure that effective project management takes place
- vii. Ensure that all work associated with the locality area is carried out to the highest quality standards
- viii. Update the Community Plans regularly and ensure community projects are recognised within the plans
- ix. Monitor and evaluate the success of the Community Plan process
- x. Effect changes within the locality area to assist in the achievement of the West Cumbria Sustainable community Strategy (Future Generation)

APPENDIX C Local Plan Methodology

The Partnership Plan is the document that enables the local partnership of parishes with their Borough and County members to set priorities for their Locality based on an evidenced need, a strategic fit. Having established and agreed priorities, a clear set of objectives and a specific action plan can be agreed. The Partnership Plan will be refreshed regularly and the action plan section will be updated by appropriate partners, with each task being clearly owned. The Plan provides a framework and a prioritised and evidenced plan of local needs to help agencies to make better use of community assets. This process looks at how the Local Authorities' commitment to working with Localities fits into that process and adds value to enable communities and their plans to achieve the priorities they have identified.

A Community Activism

1. Develop understanding with local Partnerships of the shared benefits of working as a Locality
2. Map out joint programme of working over the pilot period
3. Look at existing parish, town and partnership plans to understand locality specific priorities of each

B Joint Development

4. Assemble supporting evidence of need using various sources, e.g.
 - a. Cumbria Observatory
 - b. Local Strategic Partnership analysis
 - c. Index of Multiple Deprivation
 - d. Place Survey, 2006 Quality of Life, other survey data
 - e. Comprehensive Area Assessment / Cumbria Strategic partnership
5. Review priorities in Plan Actions with Partnership Groups
6. Analyse strategic fit of targets with District, County, LDNPA, Regional and National priorities, e.g. Local Area Agreement, Energy Coast, Nuclear Agenda, LA Corporate plans, etc.
 - a. Consider response to issues with close fit and response to gaps
 - b. Include response to address National Indicator 4, satisfaction with local area and National Indicator 5, feel able to influence public service delivery.

C Implementation

7. Agree refreshed plan that places Locality and Parish/ Town needs in context of sub-regional framework, with process and timetable for implementing and updating Partnership Plan actions
8. Agree process and timetable for refreshing Partnership Plan
9. Localities and Parishes continue to move Plans forward with Locality Team support.
10. Annual review to monitor progress, with more regular update, timed to fit in with budget setting.

The aim is to help put the priorities of Parishes and Localities into the agenda of Public Service Delivery Bodies and establish a set of links and relationships that are currently not in place. This will take a little time to set up with help from the Locality team. The medium term aim is that communities through the local partnership arrangements will be able to maintain the links that the locality pilots help to set up, and public services themselves should continue to become more customer and community focused as a result.

A work programme setting out timetables and support available will be agreed within each locality at the start of the pilots.

APPENDIX D Anticipated locality pilot and roll out timetable

<i>Locality</i>		<i>Oct 2009</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>	<i>Jan 2010</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>Mch</i>	<i>Apr</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>Jun</i>
North East	<i>Pilot</i>	Prep	Start						End	
Mid	<i>Pilot</i>	Prep	Start				End			
West						Prep	Start			
South							Prep	Start		
Howgate	<i>Pilot</i>	Prep	Start			End				
Whitehaven							Prep	Prep	Start	
Joint Events				√	√		√√		√	√