



Report of The Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods Directorate

Meeting: Inner North West Area Committee

Date: 31 July 2008

Subject: Future plans for partnership working

Electoral Wards Affected:		Specific Implications For:	
ALL		Equality and Diversity	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Ward Members consulted (referred to in report)		Community Cohesion	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		Narrowing the Gap	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Council Function	<input type="checkbox"/>	Delegated Executive Function available for Call In	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		Delegated Executive Function not available for Call In Details set out in the report	<input type="checkbox"/>

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 This report makes proposals for changing the structure of partnership working, reflecting changes that are taking place across organisational boundaries and concerns expressed by members about the governance arrangements that apply to previous interagency partnership arrangements. It also covers the provision of sub groups under the area committee and looks to streamline the current sub groups under the new partnership structures.

2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 Following the introduction of Area Management Teams and Area Committees early in 2004, District Partnerships were established to coordinate partnership working in the 5 areas, and to develop a regeneration plan for each area, localising the Vision for Leeds. The boundaries of these five partnerships reflected fairly accurately partner boundaries at the time with almost exact mapping of Council (Area Management), PCT, ALMO and Police boundaries.

2.2 Across the city much has been achieved by the district partnerships. In West Leeds the District Partnership was included in a bid nationally by the City as a Beacon for partnership working. However there have been concern citywide from some elected members that they have felt relatively marginalised by the District Partnership arrangements. Some felt that decisions were being made which could have

important impacts on local interests without a sufficient input from members themselves. Whilst Area Committee Chairs were District Partnership members, the view of some ward members was that not enough of them were engaged. In addition each area has had two planning frameworks – one through the District Partnership Action Plan and one through the Area Committee's Delivery Plan. Finally the boundaries of several organisations have changed, for example West North West Homes, Leeds PCT, West Yorkshire Police Force and Leeds City Council Environments and Neighbourhoods Directorate and these now need to be reflected in the new partnership structures.

3.0 FUTURE PROPOSALS FOR PARTNERSHIP WORKING

- 3.1 The Council's new corporate planning framework aims to link the Vision for Leeds themes and the Local Area Agreement to strategic outcomes in a single Leeds Strategic Plan. As part of this framework the Area Committees' Area Delivery Plans will become the key focus for the achievement of strategic outcomes at a locality level. The Area Committee will be responsible for developing a local plan for its area which would contribute to city wide strategic outcomes. To be effective, this will need to involve autonomous partners such as the Police, ALMO and the PCT as well as ensuring that the views and priorities of local people and stakeholders are taken into account. This would enable the focus of the partners themselves to be the delivery of outcomes they agreed to support.
- 3.2 Consequently Area Committees will play a central role in partnership working. This can be achieved in various ways. The Councils preferred position would see Area Committees provide a local governance and accountability framework for agreed partnership collaboration through their new Area Delivery Plans. The expectation would be that the Council and local agencies would give accountability for their actions to local people through the Area Committees. Work is still ongoing to put these ideas into a realisable form. It is proposed that Area Delivery Plans will be three year planning documents with annual reviews.
- 3.3 To address the issue of governance and oversight of the partnership agenda, it is proposed that the Area Committee takes on a greater role in monitoring partnership activity. To achieve this, subject to the agreement of all four Area Committees within the new 'West North West area' and key partners, each Committee will be asked to nominate one member to attend each of the sub group meetings and act as a 'champion' of that issue. In addition on an annual basis it is proposed that the Area Committee hosts a seminar relating to the work of each of the partnerships and the contribution they are making to securing the relevant strategic outcomes. These ideas are in line with the key issues raised in a report to the Executive Board at the end of 2007.
- 3.4 It is intended that these new arrangement will reduce any duplication and tension between Area Delivery Plans and District Partnership Action Plans and acknowledge that in the new corporate planning and LAA environment the Council will have the lead responsibility for ensuring the delivery of agreed LAA outcomes.
- 3.5 Alongside this new role for the Area Committees, it is proposed that officers from different agencies e.g. Council, PCT, Police, ALMOs, Education Leeds would continue to co-operate and meet together based on the three areas with periodic meetings involving other local stakeholders such as business and voluntary sector representatives as appropriate and as required.

- 3.6 Leeds Initiative structures are also undergoing some changes, however it is intended that District based arrangement will still report to the “Narrowing the Gap” Executive Group who will retain the responsibility for oversight of these arrangements, ensuring the close alignment of area based plans and the new strategic outcomes framework. It is intended that further work will be done by the Leeds Initiative so that clear proposals and operational arrangements can be reported to the Narrowing the Gap Executive in the next month or so. Both the “Narrowing the Gap” and the “Going Up a League” Executive Groups will now include three elected members one of whom will be the chair
- 3.7 In West and North West Leeds there are established partnership groups covering some of the areas of the Leeds Strategic Plan. A new West and North West Health and Wellbeing partnership group will be established in the autumn by the PCT and will cover Health and Older People's issues, subject to agreement with partners. The Children and Young people service are currently considering reviewing their current partnership arrangements to align them more closely to the Area Committee structures. In the interim, there will continue to be two separate partnership groups for West and North West respectively, supported by the Childrens Services locality enablers. Other partnership arrangements for Community Safety and Housing would remain the same.
- 3.8 A proposed timetable for partners in these areas to report back to area committee is
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|----------------|---------------------------------------|
| September 2008 | Children and Young People partnership |
| November 2008 | Community Safety partnership |
| December 2008 | Economy and Skills partnership |
| February 2009 | Health and wellbeing partnership |
| March 2009 | Environment partnership |
| June 2009 | Housing partnership |

Members are requested to nominate a lead member to sit on each relevant partnership groupings and also for a lead for the partnership work around Culture

- 3.9 A possible format for Inner North West Area Committee would be a one hour presentation and discussion by partnerships on their work held between 5.45 and 6.45pm (including refreshments) on the day of the Committee followed by the Area Committee business agenda.
- 3.10 The new arrangements for partnerships require reviewing the current arrangements for ward forums and area committee sub groups. Current arrangements are as follows

Ward forums

- Hyde Park and Woodhouse Forum: current chairs Cllr Hussein and Ewens
- Kirkstall Burley Forum: current chair Cllr Yeadon
- Headingley Forum: current chair Cllr Monaghan

Inner North West Area Committee sub groups and chairs

- Children and Young People: current chair Cllr Ewens
- Streetscene and Environment : current chair Cllr Monaghan
- Graffiti : current chair Cllr Bentley
- Community Safety: current chair Cllr Bentley

- Shared Housing: current chair Cllr Hamilton
- Students and the community: current chair Cllr Monaghan
- Planning : current chair Cllr Hamilton
- Transport:: current chair vacant

It is proposed that the chair of the Children and Young People's sub group becomes the member champion for that partnership area, that the chair of the Community Safety sub group becomes the member champion for that partnership area, that the chair of the Shared Housing group becomes the member champion for the Housing Partnership, and that the chair of the Streetscene and Environment sub group becomes the members champion for the Environment.

3.13 The North West Leeds District Partnership ceased to meet last year. However, there is still a requirement for senior officers from all key agencies to meet on a regular basis. A West North West Officer Network is being established the key purpose of which are to

- Promote effective co-ordinated working at a neighbourhood level within their district;
- Co-ordinate programmes and activities at a district level which contribute to 'narrowing the gap'
- Contribute to the development of local targets and delivery of improvement priorities within the Leeds Strategic Plan
- Develop, with the relevant area committees, appropriate working arrangements which facilitate the construction and implementation of area plans

4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 The Area Committee is asked to consider this report and make suggestions to promote effective partnership working
- 4.2 The Area Committee is asked to endorse the principle of utilising Area Committee meetings to improve partnership working so far as it relates to the Strategic Plan .
- 4.3 The Area committee is asked to identify members with an interest and the availability to act as champions for the specific themes dealt with by partnership groups (see para 3.8 above) and sub groups/ward forums (see para 3.10 above)