

Consultation Feedback on Locality Working across Great Yarmouth

The consultation period for the above ended on 18th December. The consultation was promoted via the GYBC and Comeunity web-sites, as well as existing community and voluntary sector groupings and networks. All elected members received a hard copy of the paper as did LSP members. Several presentations were delivered to existing groupings and one-to-one meetings have been held with public sector partners. Four written responses were received. Verbal responses were recorded as a consequence of question and answer sessions after presentations and one-to-one meetings. An additional street consultation event with local residents was held on Wednesday 17th December in Gt Yarmouth Market Place to cross reference responses from a random selection of residents who are not currently engaged in decision-making activities.

The business case for locality working has been revised in light of these responses to propose the following:

- Neighbourhood Management is a well evidenced approach nationally to neighbourhood renewal and locality working. This has also been evidenced locally through the existing neighbourhood management approach in South and Central Yarmouth and a locality working approach has been well-received by partners and local residents during consultation.
- In light of this, it is suggested that this approach be given a phased roll-out across the borough. Initially to three further localities, reflecting Safer Neighbourhood Team areas and based on the 2007 Indices of Multiple Deprivation.
 - The first pilot area (Southtown and Cobholm) will benefit from a housing renewal project from 2009, which offers an opportunity for the project to be developed within the locality working framework and the opportunity to pool resources to provide a holistic regeneration programme to local residents living in the area. The Southtown and Cobholm area will also include Halfway House area where work is underway to develop a Tenant Managed Organisation. This would fit comfortably with the Neighbourhood Management Approach.
 - The second pilot area (Magdalen) benefits from forming a naturally recognised neighbourhood. A neighbourhood approach is currently being championed by the Safer Neighbourhood Team for the area and recent work with Community Housing, GYB Services and the Police has demonstrated the merit for a locality working model for Magdalen.
 - The third pilot area will include a rural locality (Caister and the Coastal Villages), whilst this will offer due attention to rural issues within the borough, the rural approach in the first instance will not be about establishing infrastructure, which may duplicate the work of parish councils. It will be about establishing networks, building capacity and offering support to existing mechanisms and will look to develop work with service providers on rural issues.

- The urban localities will be overseen by a locality board consisting of local residents, elected members and service providers. Locality boards will develop in these areas to oversee devolved budgets, shape local service delivery and champion mechanisms for community engagement. The role of the elected member will remain pivotal and distinct from that of active residents.
- Beneath locality Boards will sit a range of new and existing community engagement opportunities to encourage greater and more representative resident participation in community issues. This will incorporate Key Individual Networks, Area Housing Panels and where established Community Partnerships.
- Local visioning in each locality will lead to the creation of Neighbourhood Delivery Plans, which reflect the local dimension to the Borough's Sustainable Communities Strategy. Once these are in place locality Boards will be able to pursue funding and resources for particular pieces of work in their area. Careful performance monitoring will be included as part of this process.
- Boards will be serviced by Locality Co-ordinators, with the overall responsibility to drive service improvement within each area. Each locality will also be serviced by a Community Development Worker to provide support to encourage grass roots engagement. The community engagement function will be provided by the Voluntary and Community Sector demonstrating a commitment to delivering against Norfolk's Local Area Agreement Indicator to support a vibrant third sector. This will be as part of a wider package of infrastructure to support community engagement through the LSP. A consortium approach to this support will be explored.
- Locality arrangements will sit within Great Yarmouth's Local Strategic Partnership as a shared resource for partners and will feed into other fora and partnerships. The consultation has identified that where possible decisions should be made as close to the intended beneficiaries as possible without additional layers of bureaucracy. Locality arrangements should also fit seamlessly with political arrangements for Elected Members such as the Area Council Forums for Yarmouth and Gorleston.
- Locality arrangements are intended to be funded by a range of public agencies who will benefit from being able to target their resources in a more co-ordinated way at a grass roots level. There is general endorsement from all public sector partners to the principle of locality working. It also suggested that a % top-slice is apportioned to support locality arrangements from existing area-based grant to enable more effective delivery for particular initiatives. GYBC may also consider the future allocations of Second Homes Council Tax and a contribution from external funds where appropriate.
- There is a desire from those areas, particularly the remaining urban areas not included in the first tranche of pilots to be included in future locality working arrangements. In areas where there is existing community activity and infrastructure a minimal community engagement function should be provided to maintain existing levels of community involvement and build capacity for future arrangements.

Next Steps:

- **A robust funding strategy will be developed in January upon further discussions with partners and internal discussions within Great Yarmouth Borough Council.**
- **A detailed implementation plan will be prepared for early February in conjunction with the Locality Working Steering Group.**

N.B Full copies of the Final Business Case report will be available at the Board meeting.