

Your views on rolling out locality working across Great Yarmouth

You may be aware that Great Yarmouth was awarded the Neighbourhood Element of the Safer, Stronger Communities Fund to develop a Neighbourhood Management approach in South and Central Yarmouth from 2006-2010. The since entitled "Comeunity" programme has evolved over this period to develop mechanisms for co-ordinated locality working and community empowerment, building on the success of previous initiatives, such as SRB and the work of Great Yarmouth People in the area.

Great Yarmouth's Local Strategic Partnership has recently endorsed plans to roll-out locality working across Great Yarmouth from April 2009. This means more effective co-ordination of resources at a neighbourhood level, with strong mechanisms to support community empowerment and localised decision-making.

A business case has been developed over the last four months with a range of partners, most importantly capturing the aspirations of local residents currently involved in the neighbourhood management programme.

Due to previous investment in community empowerment and neighbourhood improvement Great Yarmouth is well-positioned to the forthcoming policy drivers such as participatory budgeting, community asset transfer and the new "Duty to Involve". This also means that Great Yarmouth is well-placed to develop work in line with Norfolk's Local Area Agreement, particularly the empowerment and cohesion indicators.

The business case proposes 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.
- In light of this, it is suggested that this approach be given a phased roll-out across the borough. Initially to 3 further localities, reflecting Safer Neighbourhood Team areas and based on the 2007 Indices of Multiple Deprivation. 1 of the pilot areas will include a rural locality, where careful consideration will need to be given to a neighbourhood management approach and its relationship to existing mechanisms for local involvement in decision making.
- Each locality 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.



- 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.
- 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.
- 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. Exactly how, is yet to be determined.
- 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. 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.
- An ambitious implementation plan is proposed to ensure that the first phase of extending locality arrangements can start from April 09, with these arrangements extending to other areas from April 10. Reviews and evaluation have been built into this plan during the first year.

We would very much appreciate your views as part of this consultation process.

In particular we'd appreciate your ideas on the following:

- Is there activity underway which needs to be incorporated into planned locality arrangements?
- How else might these proposals be resourced?
- How else might these proposals be serviced?
- What is the most effective mechanism for localities to communicate with other partnerships and foras?
- What challenges/ risks might you anticipate with this model?
- What will make it successful?
- What safeguards will need to be put in place to ensure maximum and diverse community engagement in the process?
- Are there more effective mechanisms to demonstrate improvement against National Indicator 4: *% of people who feel they can influence decision making?*
- Is the timescale for implementation realistic?

In all responses please state:

- **Your organisation (if applicable)**
- **And membership/ or those you represent (if applicable)**

Responses can be submitted via e-mail:

rt@great-yarmouth.gov.uk

or via post

The Neighbourhood Centre, 143 King Street, Great Yarmouth, NR30 2PQ

Deadline for responses is: **18th December 2008**

Hard copies of the Business Case Paper can be obtained from the Neighbourhood Centre, 143 King Street, Great Yarmouth, NR30 2PQ
01493 845920

Or downloaded via the web-site www.comeunity.info