

REPORT TO: Cabinet
DATE: 14 April 2011
SUBJECT: Development of Area Partnerships
WARDS AFFECTED: All
REPORT OF: Graham Bayliss, Director of Corporate Commissioning
CONTACT OFFICER: Steph Prewett, Assistant Director Neighbourhoods Ext 3485
**EXEMPT/
CONFIDENTIAL:** No

PURPOSE/SUMMARY:

To inform Cabinet of progress to date in the development of Area Partnerships

To ask for agreement to the proposals set out in Annex I for a forward work plan to enable the progression of Area Partnerships across Sefton.

REASON WHY DECISION REQUIRED:

To allow progress to be made in further developing Area Partnerships and making them relevant to their geography

RECOMMENDATION(S):

It is recommended that the Cabinet:

- i) Note the outcomes of Member consultation
- ii) Note the achievements to date
- iii) Agree the proposed timeline for development to enable further work to progress to establish Area Partnerships in Crosby, Sefton East Parishes, Formby and Southport

KEY DECISION: Yes

FORWARD PLAN: Yes

IMPLEMENTATION DATE: 1st May 2011

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

To proceed with current arrangements

IMPLICATIONS:

Budget/Policy Framework: No Implications.

Financial: The Head of Corporate Finance & Information Services has been consulted and has no comments on this report.

There are no implications.

Legal:

Risk Assessment:

Asset Management: No implications

CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN/VIEWS

The Head of Corporate Finance & ICT has been consulted and has no comments on this report. FD731/2011

The Head of Corporate Legal Services has been consulted and has no comments on this report - LD - 94/11

Consultation has been undertaken with Members and partners about the development of Area Partnerships

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Cabinet and Council - Governance Review – Workstreams on the Sefton Borough Partnership and Area Management, 4 March 2010

Performance Cabinet - Governance Review – Workstreams on the Sefton Borough Partnership and Area Management, 17 February 2010

Cabinet Members – Communities and Performance and Governance 3 November 2010, 16 and 23 March 2011

Cabinet and Council - Transformation Programme and Final Revenue Budget Options 2011/12, 3 March 2011

CORPORATE OBJECTIVE MONITORING:

<u>Corporate Objective</u>		<u>Positive Impact</u>	<u>Neutral Impact</u>	<u>Negative Impact</u>
1	Creating a Learning Community	√		
2	Creating Safe Communities	√		
3	Jobs and Prosperity	√		
4	Improving Health and Well-Being	√		
5	Environmental Sustainability	√		
6	Creating Inclusive Communities	√		
7	Improving the Quality of Council Services and Strengthening local Democracy	√		
8	Children and Young People	√		

1.0 Background:

- 1.1 Cabinet and Council agreed to the establishment of Area Based Thematics at relevant meetings on 4 March 2010. Further to consultation these have now evolved into Area Partnerships
- 1.2 The Area Partnerships are currently defined within the following geographical boundaries:
 - South Sefton
 - Crosby
 - Sefton East Parishes
 - Formby
 - Southport
- 1.3 Consultation has taken place with Members and partners around how they see the Area Partnerships developing and how they see themselves operating within them
- 1.4 Further to decision taken at last Cabinet on 3 March 2011 the Community Safety Area Partnerships are to be assimilated into the Area Partnerships and, therefore, the Area Partnerships will need to be operational to enable a smooth transition of this agenda.

2.0 Outcomes to Date

- 2.1 The South Sefton Area Partnership has been established and evolved from the pre-existing Neighbourhood Regeneration Thematic Group. This group has agreed a governing document and has identified 2 key areas of work it would like to focus on.
- 2.2 The Southport Area Partnership will transition from the existing Southport Partnership, further additional stakeholder engagement will be carried out to help in determining priorities for its work programme.
- 2.3 It is widely accepted that a one size fits all approach will not work and so consultation has taken place with the other areas to establish how they see an Area Partnership working for them. There is a definite ambition to forge ahead with Area Partnerships. The outcomes of this consultation indicated:
 - Clear distinction needed between Area Committee and Area Partnerships: terms of reference and roles and responsibilities should be developed
 - Corporate sign up by all officers
 - Need Area Partnerships to have some kind of leadership and influence, particularly if don't have a direct budget to control.
 - Need clear remit and purpose if to avoid becoming a talking shop – clear outcomes and direction of travel. Danger of becoming another layer of bureaucracy with no real value if this isn't done.
 - Need to build on successful ad hoc arrangements already taking place around bringing partners together to deal with specific issues. Don't want duplication. Action and clear outcomes is the most important thing, and not having meetings for meetings sake.

Partnership working most successful when dealing with specific issues with a clear timescale.

- Recognition of what can and can't be dealt with at a local level and local priorities should reflect this. However, wherever possible services should be considered at the lowest level of decision making.
- Each area will need to set out how their Area Partnership can work for them and who needs to be on them.

2.4 Partners play a key role on the Area Partnerships regardless of their individual structure or set up and so consultation is ongoing with relevant partner agencies to ascertain how they see their involvement and how Area Partnerships can support them in delivery. Discussions have been positive and outcomes will be drawn together once all discussions are complete.

3.0 Proposed Timeline for Roll Out of Area Partnerships Across Sefton

3.1 It is proposed that the roll out of Area Partnerships be carried out in a phased approach with Crosby and Sefton East Parishes being established first and Southport and Formby to follow once further groundwork has been done.

3.2 A timeline has been attached at Annex 1 to suggest suitable timescales for the implementation

4.0 Key Considerations for each Area Partnership

4.1 It is not proposed to impose a model upon any of the Area Partnerships and so there are a number of key considerations to be made upon the establishment of any Area Partnership:

- Membership – Members, key partners, businesses, any other relevant partnerships. Each Area Partnership will need to determine numbers, how to decide upon who will be represented and issue of deputies.
- Schedule of meetings and agenda structure
- How to conduct business outside of meetings – additional special meetings, task and finish groups, electronic discussion
- Review process
- How it works with its Area Committee
- How it will determine its priorities

4.2 These issues will be addressed at the inaugural meeting or prior to this where appropriate

5.0 Feedback from Cabinet Members – Communities and Performance and Governance and Sefton Borough Partnership Operations Board

5.1 Both Cabinet Member - Communities and Cabinet Member- Performance and Governance were in agreement with the contents of the report and will be kept informed of the development of Area Partnerships.

5.2 The Sefton Borough Partnership Operations Board met on 14 March 2011 and were extremely positive about the development of the Area Partnerships and fully supported the

value of their work. Partners on the Ops Board were positive about the emerging Area Partnerships, with encouraging comments about the early meetings of the South Sefton Area Partnership. Partners such as Police and Fire Service were enthusiastic about working with Area Partnerships and emphasised the need to pick up good practice from other partnerships. Concerns raised by NHS Sefton about the possible difficulty in attending a number of meetings were alleviated by the fact that attendance would be based upon relevance and need.

