
Executive

15th January 2008

Report of the Director of Neighbourhood Services

Community Leadership and Neighbourhood Management

Summary

1. A notice of motion has been received on Community Leadership and Neighbourhood Management. Under standing orders, this requires an officer report to the Executive on the implications of the notice of motion.

Background

2. The notice of motion states:

“Council believes that residents should have the ability to influence the local provision of services. It recognises the importance of Neighbourhood Management and the need to link the Local Strategic Partnership and Local Area Agreement to neighbourhood initiatives rather than imposing decisions from the top. By listening to the local community, services are made more responsive whilst at the same time promoting democracy and participation.

Council proposes an approach to community leadership and neighbourhood working that recognises the key role that local councillors play in leading and inspiring communities to take pride in improvements that are driven by residents themselves. Current thinking demands that local councils step back from the traditional role of service provider and instead provide increasingly localised services that don't assume ownership by the Council but whose development has been shaped by local residents. It recognises that one size doesn't necessarily fit all. We believe that this Council must drive service improvement by empowering, building confidence and supporting residents. This will increase democratic participation.

Council requests the Executive to report back to Council on:

- i) the possibilities for increasing localisation and devolvement of services to the community level;*
- ii) progress with Neighbourhood Charter or Action Plans;*
- iii) citywide consultation at household level, engagement and reporting provisions needed to ensure ward level delivery meets local expectations, and;*
- iv) the extension of participatory budgeting and partnership delivery models.”*

Consultation

3. The group leaders were presented with an officer briefing on Community Leadership and Neighbourhood Management on 7th December 2007. The briefing outlined a range of potential Neighbourhood Management models. It was agreed that, following feedback from the group leaders, officers should prepare a report for the Executive. A report has been placed on the forward plan for an Executive Meeting on 26th February 2008.
4. At the meeting of the Executive leader and Advisory Panel for Neighbourhood Services on 17th October 2007, it was requested that officers bring a report to the January 2008 meeting concerning an update on Neighbourhood Action Plans. This report has been completed and will be presented to the EMAP for Neighbourhood Services on 21st January 2008.

Options

4. Members could decide either:
 - (a) to note the notice of motion at this meeting and refer it to Council on 24 January 2008 for consideration; or
 - (b) to note the motion at this meeting and ask Officers to bring a more comprehensive position report on its implications to the Executive in February, when the Director of Neighbourhood Services reports to the Executive on potential neighbourhood management models.

Analysis

5. Option (b) above is recommended as it would enable Officers to look in more detail at and respond more comprehensively on the notice of motion. It would also allow Officers to set out the implications alongside the issues raised in the forthcoming report on neighbourhood management models.
6. Having considered the report referred to in paragraph 5 above, the Executive would then refer the motion and relevant parts commenting upon it in the officer report to the next available full Council meeting on 10 April 2008.

Corporate Strategy

7. The aims set out in the notice of motion referred to in paragraph 2 above could be said to support the following core values and/or directional statements set out in the Council's Corporate Strategy 2007-2011:-

'Encouraging improvement in everything we do' (Corporate Value);

'We will listen to communities and ensure that people have a greater say in deciding local priorities.'

The full implications of delivering the approach raised in the motion will be set out in the report to the Executive in February 2008.

Implications

- **Financial**

8. There are no financial implications to this report at this stage.

- **Human Resources (HR)**

9. There are no HR implications to this report at this stage.

- **Equalities**

10. There are no equalities implications to this report at this stage.

- **Legal**

11. There are no legal implications to this report at this stage.

- **Crime and Disorder**

12. There are no crime and disorder implications to this report at this stage.

- **Information Technology (IT)**

13. There are no IT implications to this report at this stage.

- **Other**

14. There are no known other implications to this report at this stage.

Risk Management

15. There are no risk management implications to this report at this stage.

Recommendations

16. Members are asked to consider deferring any consideration of this motion until Council on 10 April, 2008, to enable a full analysis on the implications to be included in the report to the Executive in February 2008 on neighbourhood management models.

Contact Details

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Terry Collins
Director of Neighbourhood Services

Report Approved **Date** 21.12.07
Terry Collins
Director of Neighbourhood Services

Report Approved **Date** 21.12.07

Wards Affected:

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers: None

Annexes: None