
**Decision Session – Executive Member for
Leisure Culture & Social Inclusion**

2 February 2011

Report of the Director of Communities and Neighbourhoods

Area Based Working Pilot Project: First Quarter Report

Purpose of Report

1. The purpose of the report is to present the progress made in the first quarter of the Area Based Working project.

Background

2. York has a long history of working closely with communities, the Ward Committee structure and Participatory Budgeting process has provided residents with a mechanism for more meaningful participation at a local level for the last twenty years. Volunteering is prolific and many residents take an active role in providing their own solutions to the challenges faced by their communities.
3. At a meeting of the Executive on 7 July 2009 (Agenda item 9), members received a report relating to proposal to adopt a new model for delivering street level services by moving to area based working. Members approved this proposal and a twelve month pilot in six wards was instigated to test the area based working model. The wards are; Acomb, Dringhouses and Woodthorpe, Holgate, Micklegate, Rural West and Westfield.
4. In May 2010 a partnership conference attracted in excess of 100 representatives from organisations across the city. From this it was clear there was strong support for developing partnerships at a local level to reduce engagement and service duplication, share local intelligence and good practice and to develop bespoke services at a ward level based on community need. Additionally there was commitment to community involvement in service delivery.
5. In the following months discussion has taken place with a wide range of partners to understand their current strategies and to explore how a local partnership approach might contribute to and inform future development of those strategies. There is more discussion required as organisations in York are delivering a wide range of services at local and citywide levels, in addition consideration will need to be given to the changing economic landscape and the potential affects on the nature and volume of current service delivery.

Area Based Working Project

6. The Area Based Working Project commenced on 5 September 2010. The aims of the project are as follows:
 - ensure that appropriate services are delivered to meet the needs of the community
 - increase the number of participating residents in local decision making and
 - increase community based activities and increase the level of community ownership
 - increase residents awareness of ward committees and community groups
 - determine a framework for partnership working at a local level and determine the efficiencies that can be achieved
 - determine a framework approach to resolving the root cause of issues
 - develop a communications approach for community, members and partners
7. The project is supported by resources from the Neighbourhood Management Unit and is led by a Transformation board of officers from Partner Agencies. The project is key to ensuring that services are designed around local issues and priorities, reviewing best use of resources and enhancing community involvement and volunteer capacity.
8. Progress over the first three months has been around sharing information and understanding. Establishing governance structures and making sure ward priorities are clear. The ward priorities agreed through the process are set out in Annex 1.
9. These priorities have informed the themes for each of the tasking groups. These include economy, environment, older people, safer communities and children and young people. The task groups will now meet to begin to provide the service response to the priorities set out for each ward. A key part of this will be to be able to demonstrate more effective use of resources and quantifying this.
10. The specific achievements against the project aims for the first quarter are set out in Annex 2.
11. The Partnership Board meetings were consistently well attended by a range of partners. There was significant input from Parish Council representatives in Rural West. Levels of local intelligence were good and a challenge for the future will be to encourage all relevant partners to attend and input. The discussions highlighted a number of common themes in terms of priority setting. Of note, was the Acomb Partnership meeting. After discussion where partners provided some wide ranging local intelligence, it was agreed that the Carr estate has a number of significant challenges in relation to education, employment, aspiration and anti social behaviour. Partnership Board members

felt that improving quality of life for residents on this estate using focussed resources across a raft of issues would be the best way to test the neighbourhood model and provide residents with service delivery that suited their needs.

Next Steps

12. Lead officers drawn from CYC and partner organisations will be briefed on the priorities prior to the first tasking meetings in order to develop a core membership list that reflects those organisations best placed to deliver against the priorities. The membership will develop over time based on identification of new delivery mechanisms and changing challenges within the set priorities. Colleagues will be charged with assisting in the development of a number of targets related to the priorities against which success will be measured. The tasking groups will hold their first full meetings in January 2011.
13. The project team will meet to define the benefits to be measured for all of the priorities in order to effectively determine the success of the pilot. The team will explore the ability of CYC and partners to effectively benchmark and monitor progress against the targets proposed at the tasking meetings and the actual targets will be agreed by the end of January 2011
14. The neighbourhood management team will be working with partners at a local level to further develop those initiatives listed at 8. They will continue working with communities to explore issues and to work with front line partners and volunteers to deliver solutions. They will develop closer links with those delivering front line services and work with communities to identify improvements to service delivery.
15. The first of four newsletters will be circulated to all Elected Members in January to appraise them of progress and provide them with the opportunity to discuss how Area Based management will be delivered in their wards following the completion of the pilot in 2011.

Equalities Implications

16. The affect of working in partnership to deliver an Area Based Working model will be assessed throughout the life of the pilot and presented for comment as part of the final evaluation report. Full Equality Impact Assessments will be completed for any service changes.

Risk Management

17. The risks associated with delivery of the Area based working model will be assessed during the 12 month pilot and presented for comment as part of the final evaluation report.

Recommendations

18. The Executive Member is asked to note the report and invited to comment on the progress and achievements made in the first quarter of the year-long Area Based Working pilot project.

Reason – to ensure that the Executive Member is kept updated on progress with the pilot project.

Contact Details

Author:

**Kate Bowers
Head of Neighbourhood
Management
Extn 1817**

**Charlie Croft
Assistant Director
Lifelong Learning & Culture
Extn 3371**

Chief Officer Responsible for the report:

**Sally Burns
Director of Communities and
Neighbourhoods**

**Report
Approved**



**Date:
21 January 2011**

Annexes (available on-line only)

Annex 1 – Ward Priorities Identified
Annex B – Project Achievements for Quarter 1