

Elements for Testing during the Development Phase

Community Engagement Events

- State of the Community Area Debate (annual progress report and visioning event)
- Community Area Assessment (identification of local issues and priorities for action)
- Decision Day (setting budget priorities and allocating project funding for community initiatives, using participatory budgeting techniques)
- Local Challenge (identifying persistent 'sticky issues' and holding failing services to account)

Policy and Process

- Embedding ownership of the Local Area Agreement in our communities, helping to shape it from the 'bottom up'
- Supporting community planning processes at the parish, neighbourhood and community area level; measuring the cost-benefits of different approaches
- The relationship and referral mechanisms between the Community Board and the Community Area Partnership
- The role of Community Area Plans and Strategic Action Plans within the new arrangements
- The role of development trusts in the new governance arrangements
- Developing a model Community Charter between the statutory authorities and the communities they serve

Service Involvement

- Tracking a service issue through the new 'local' decision making process
- Identifying appropriate Schemes of Delegation for Managers and Members to speed up decision-making processes
- Identifying service constraints and flexibilities for delegated decision-making
- Re-designing frontline services to better address local needs

Community Board 'constitutions'

- Voting arrangements
- The role of Cabinet members
- The representation from Town & Parish Councils
- The representation from the Community Area Partnership
- The representation from other agencies – Health, Police, Fire etc.

Resource and Support Needs

- The support role required by the Board (and Partnership?) from the post of Community Planner/ Project Manager
- The support role required by the Board from the Democratic Services officer
- The nature of the support required by elected Councillors
- The level of Core Funding for Community Area Partnerships (including who holds the money and how it is disbursed)
- The level of, and criteria for, Grant Funding for priority community projects (including who holds the money and how it is disbursed)
- The required support role to the Partnerships through the post of Community Agent
- The requirements of a Training and Development Programme for elected members and other community leaders