

Review of community area partnership arrangements in Salisbury

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To update members on the progress of the review, emerging ideas and next steps.

2. Background

- 2.1 A review of SCCAP was launch in June 2013 and the preliminary conclusions were reported to the Board on 12 September 2013 ([download report](#)). The review group considered available options and has proposed changes to the current arrangements as summarised below:

- To retain strong local partnership arrangements, but move away from the current organisation based structure of SCCAP.
- To retain and rationalise the theme based approach and couple this with neighbourhood level activity.
- To bring together Salisbury Area Board and Salisbury City Council to jointly support and promote any new arrangements that emerge.

[\(The full decision of the Area Board can be viewed here\)](#)

- 2.2 The Board also called for a consultation workshop to be convened to recommend new arrangements to be put in place from April 2014. Since that time informal discussions have taken place between the Chair of the Area Board and the Leader of Salisbury City Council.

3 Moving forward

- 3.1 In order to move forward with the new arrangements in April, the Area Board is now asked to consider proposals that it may wish to take forward to the planned consultation workshop. These proposals are based on the outcome of the review work undertaken so far.
- 3.2 It should be recognised that these proposals are intended to clarify the Area Board's preferred position and to focus the discussion at the consultation workshop. However, the Board will consider any alternative proposals and

suggestions that emerge from the consultation before adopting a final preference.

4. New partnership arrangements for Salisbury

- 4.1 Following the outcome of the preliminary review, it is suggested that any new arrangements should move away from a formal organisation-led approach towards a more open network of existing groups, focusing on:
- Supporting existing interest groups in the City, rather than duplicating activity.
 - Establishing an effective forum for community activity and representation that can work alongside and in partnership with the Area Board and City Council.
 - Encouraging and supporting practical community-led actions by existing interest groups
 - Building stronger relationships and improving communication between existing interest groups
 - Bringing existing interest groups together to identify shared priorities for action in Salisbury and providing a means of representing these interests at Area Board meetings.
 - Encouraging community-led activity at neighbourhood level by supporting existing neighbourhood groups
 - Bringing together the Salisbury Area Board and Salisbury City Council to facilitate and support this new community based approach.
- 4.2 This new approach would bring together and work through existing groups in the City – such as business, faith, charity, health, sports, arts, youth, environmental and social groups. It would be an open network – with all groups welcome. The new network would aim to deliver agreed priorities by helping its associated groups to deliver practical local projects. This would be facilitated by the Area Board and the City Council through grants, advice, support and practical assistance where needed. Get-togethers or meet-ups would be informal, issue based and action focused with groups participating if and when they see they have a shared interest in the issue concerned. This might be supported by ad-hoc task and project groups around specific issues or priorities (such as the Salisbury Community Area Transport Group and the Air Quality Group for example).
- 4.3 Key to this new approach will be improved communication and networking between the existing City groups. This could be facilitated by:
- A small, informal group to coordinate and represent the network
 - Improved use of social media and regular email contact

- Periodic informal meet-ups and social events
- Councillor champions appointed by the Area Board and City Council
- Support from Area Board and City Council officers
- Team working based around the facilities at the new Salisbury Campus
- Asset mapping and resource sharing across the City
- A biennial priority setting and action planning conference

4.4 The review group looked at the Bradford on Avon community area network (BOACAN) as an example of a community where this approach has been working effectively for several years and this might serve as a model for Salisbury. BOACAN is action focused and has delivered important initiatives such as the 'Made in Bradford' brand, the BoA Agriculture Cooperative and the Air Quality Alliance. BOACAN works within Wiltshire's family of Community Area Partnerships and is affiliated with the Wiltshire Forum of Community Area Partnerships (WfCAP). BOACAN receives funding from the Bradford on Avon Area Board to support its activities.

5. Next steps

5.1 The proposals set out in this paper would mark a significant change in emphasis but would build upon and evolve from the good work initiated by SCCAP in 2008. If members of the Area Board are supportive of the approach described here, then the formal consultation workshop can be organised with partner organisations such as the City Council and SCCAP as agreed.

6. Recommendation

6.1 That Salisbury Area Board supports the proposal set out in this paper as its preferred option for consideration to the consultation workshop with SCCAP, Salisbury City Council and other partner organisations within the City.

6.2 That the formal consultation workshop is organised between 10th January and 12th March and include all major stakeholders.

6.3 In order to comply with the Wiltshire Compact and subject to the outcome of the consultation process, formal notice is given to SCCAP of the Board's intention to discontinue funding its existing administration and operating costs from 1st April 2014.

6.4 That final proposals are submitted to the next meeting of the Area Board on 13th March 2014.