

**Wiltshire Council**

**Council**

**26 February 2019**

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**From Councillor Ian Thorn, Calne Central Division**

**To Councillor John Thomson, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for  
Communications, Communities, Leisure and Libraries**

**Question (19-25)**

What more can be done to develop partnerships between town and parish councils and the area boards in order to deliver our common goals?

**Response**

Wiltshire has a well-respected and recognised community area model, led by Wiltshire councillors in partnership with the town and parish councils as well as Wiltshire Police, NHS, FRS and other public sector partners. We continue to see additional functions and funding devolved to them as well as overseeing local community action and volunteering opportunities. Over £2million of grants are allocated for highways and transport, health and wellbeing, older people, public toilets and youth activities each year

The Community Engagement Managers (CEM's) will continue to be responsible for helping to strengthen communities and developing partnerships with town and parish council through enabling and supporting community projects, expanding volunteering and encouraging engagement at public meetings and via social media

In addition the CEM's will also continue to:

- Support the transfer of non-strategic assets worth less than £250k without having to seek the approval of cabinet.
- Encourage more projects to be jointly funded by the area board and the town and parish councils which will naturally result in joint working being enhance.
- Develop working relationships with town and parish councils and improve their understanding of the challenges being faced and how these can be brought on the Area Board agendas.
- Work with the area board members to explore how they think joint work can be developed for common goals outside of the area board meetings.

**Question (19-26)**

What impact on the area boards will the reduction of Community Engagement Managers have?

## Response

None in the first instance.

The Communities team will continue to:

- Work with area boards to develop better ways of working to ensure there is no impact as a result of the decreased capacity
- Work with Democratic services to ensure the area boards are receiving support for agenda setting and meeting management.
- Work closely with Democratic Services and members to innovate and develop new ways of working that will provide more efficient ways of area board delivery.