

Report to Southern Wiltshire Area Board
Date of meeting 1 October 2015
Title of report The organisation of “Community Hub” projects in Southern Wiltshire

Background - The organisation of “Community Hub” projects in Southern Wiltshire

Following the launch of Wiltshire Council’s campus programme the Southern Wiltshire Area Board set up a COB (known by Officers as the Campus Operations Board but referred to by us as the Communities Opportunities Board) to consider the way forward.

Subsequently the Area Board decided that there were three different locations where a community hub project might be relevant – Alderbury, Downton and Winterslow – and invited those villages to decide whether to set up their own steering groups to define and take forward the project in their village with the main COB keeping a watching brief and providing overall guidance and some information for the Business Case in each location.

New guidance from Cabinet member

At a meeting of Area Board Chairs and CEMs Cllr John Thomson, the cabinet member with responsibility for the campus programme, explained that COBs had operated with varying degrees of success around the County. He reminded Area Boards that the overall responsibility for campus or community developments lay with them – not the COBs.

He wished Area Boards to take back control and direction of these projects and left it to them to decide what role, if any, COBs might play in this new setting.

Recommendation

We are unusual in Southern Wiltshire in not having a single, central location at which to develop a campus. Instead we have had to set up three ‘mini-COBs’. Having them ‘report’ to the main COB and thence to the Area Board seems unnecessarily bureaucratic and cumbersome.

It is recommended that the main COB should be disbanded and that each mini-COB (local campus working groups in Downton, Alderbury & Winterslow) should now report direct to the Area Board in liaison with their local Wiltshire Councillor and Community Engagement Manager (Tom Bray).

The chairman would like to thank all the members of the COB who have contributed to getting these three projects established.

For further information contact:

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