



**COMMUNITY AREA BOARD/PARTNERSHIP SCRUTINY TASK GROUP
REPORT OF A MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 10th OCTOBER 2008
AT COUNTY HALL, TROWBRIDGE**

Present:

Task Group: Cllr Mike Hewitt - Chairman (SDC), Cllr Steve Oldrieve (WCC), Cllr Ross Henning (NWDC), Cllr Paula Winchcombe (KDC)

Members: Cllr John Thomson Deputy Leader (WCC), Cllr Fred Westmorland (SDC)

Officers: Ceri Williams (Scrutiny Officer), Julie Martin (Development Consultant), Charles Pescod (Head of Planning NWDC), Sally Canter (NWDC)

1. Report of the Previous Meeting

Members noted the minutes from the previous meeting.

2. Community Leadership & Governance Steering Group Minutes

The Task Group considered the steering group minutes of September 23rd. During discussions members explored the level of resources allocated to support the Area Boards and established that the database of service contacts in each community area was still under development.

Agreed

- To consider the allocation of resources to support the Area Boards at the next meeting of the Task Group
- To include the Steering Group minutes within future agendas

3. Community Leadership & Governance Workstream Progress Report

The Workstream Progress Report taken to the September 23rd IE was attached for review by the Task Group. Members paid particular attention to recommendations 8, 9 and 10 which related to Section 106 funding; these had also been the 3 areas which the IE had requested further work before approving. To support the debate the Task Group welcomed

Charles Pescod and Sally Canter from NWDC to discuss the practical implications of implementing the recommendations.

Cllr Thomson provided background to the recommendations explaining that it had been envisaged that when a Section 106 agreement was in place for a playground for example, the Area Board would have the ability to influence the facilities within the playground. It was also hoped that the Area Board could follow the application of funds allocated to their community.

Charles Pescod endorsed the importance of consulting with the community but emphasised that any proposals must be 'policy based'. Work was already being undertaken within this area through the Spatial Planning Working Group which was looking at Infrastructure Planning and the approach for Wiltshire, based on Government, Regional Guidance and best practice.

The Task group was introduced to the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), which was a new proposed charge that empowers local authorities to charge on most types of new development in their area.

Members reflected on their experiences of Section 106 agreements and there was general support of the outline proposals from the Project Team.

Agreed

- To ask the Area Board Project Team to meet with the Service Director for Planning to discuss the practicalities of implementing the recommendations, whilst also considering the work of the Spatial Planning Working Group. The outcome of this work to be presented to the Scrutiny Task Group after consideration by the Community, Leadership & Governance Steering Group.

4. Project Update

Julie Martin provided the Task Group with a project update. In support of this the members were provided with copies of the Project Weekly Update Report, Communications Update and the One Council Events Diary.

During debate members acknowledged that there was a need for consistent terminology when referring to Pilot Area Boards during transition. The support available for Community Areas not participating in the pilot scheme was also discussed. The Cabinet Member was exploring the possibility of supporting Community Partnerships with direct cashable funds. This would empower the partnership by allowing them to determine how they funded their own support.

A meeting had taken place on Thursday 9th October to discuss the Pewsey/Tidworth Areas and potential options for restructuring boundaries.

The Chairman of the Task Group had attended the meeting and voiced his support towards the work completed to date.

Agreed

- To ask the project team to use the term 'Pilot Area Boards' when referring to the programme
- To consider the progress report 'Initial Outcomes of Pilot Area Boards' at the next meeting of the Task Group in advance of its submission to November 13th IE.
- To continue to monitor the development of the Community Area Boundaries.

7. Date of Next Meeting

Friday November 7th 11.30 am – County Hall