



Cabinet

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Report Title

Transitioning from Local Neighbourhood Partnerships to Community Led Economic Development - Stage 1

Classification

Open

Cabinet Member with Lead Responsibility

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1.0 Description of Savings Proposal

The service would be totally re-focused to deliver economic and social inclusion within targeted neighbourhoods. This includes support to local communities to develop micro-enterprise, social enterprise and small scale businesses; address local environmental issues in neighbourhoods and the development of more self-reliant and resilient communities e.g. digital inclusion and community led bids for external funding.

Existing LNP's may continue if they decide - but this will be without ongoing direct financial support from the Council, following the transition period.

What will be cut - Staff support to Local Neighbourhood Partnerships (LNPs) will be removed from September 2014, and there will be reduced and targeted support to local groups to attract external funding as well as loss of support to any future Neighbourhood Planning.

A new reduced staff structure will be put in place to develop and deliver the community economic regeneration service and be operational from September 2014 with a reduction from a current neighbourhood based team of 13 down to 7 staff. A further reduction of £250,000 in Council funding in 2018/19 is covered by a separate Stage 2 proposal

What service will remain - To mitigate the impact on LNPs and enable them to become self-sufficient (where they wish to continue) a single one off grant (Invest to Save) of £140,000, based on £10,000 for each of the 14 LNPs in 2014/15, will be made available. Individual Council service areas will no

longer have access to a neighbourhood consultation vehicle. The Council's Consultation and Community Involvement officer joins the service from April 2014 in order that a joined up approach to community self-reliance is maintained, alongside the economic and social inclusion work of the service. This will also retain some links for the service to community networks. The proposal provides a static revised service from September 2014 for a 3.5 year period (until 2018/19). The service will receive intensive support from the Councils external funding officer throughout this period to enable external funds to be secured for the service to continue beyond 2017/18.

This proposal relates to Portfolio holders Councillor Mattu and Councillor Bilson.

2.0 Table Setting out Financial Proposal

2.1 Total base budget savings

	Year 2014-2015 £000	Year 2015-2016 £000	Year 2016-2017 £000	Year 2017-2018 £000	Year 2018-2019 £000	5 year total £000's
Total base budget savings	100	100	0	0	0	200

2.2 Staffing Implication

	Year 2014-2015 £000	Year 2015-2016 £000	Year 2016-2017 £000	Year 2017-2018 £000	Year 2018-2019 £000	5 year total £000's
Full Time Equivalent (FTE)	6	0	0	0	0	6

3.0 Communications Strategy Implications

3.1 The Communications Strategy Implications of this proposal represent a considerable risk as detailed below. This proposal has Communications strategy Implications in terms of the impact on local communities particularly those involved in local networks currently supported by the service. This will need sensitive and timely handling from a communications perspective. Communication with partners will also need to be addressed.

4.0 Corporate Landlord Implication

4.1 The Corporate Landlord implications of this proposal represent some risk as detailed below. The staff area teams currently occupy three area offices. The future of these offices needs further consideration alongside the needs of the wider service (including wardens and NSCs) to assess on-going suitability. This can be mitigated through the Corporate Landlord strategic pathway and effective use of the Asset Management Plan.

5.0 Customer Implications

5.1 The implications for customers of this proposal represent some risk as detailed below. Local people will no longer have the same opportunities to help shape Council service to meet the needs of residents and participate in consultations. If LNPs are unable to become self-sustaining, then some people will lose access to local networks, and potentially become more isolated. This will be partially mitigated in deprived areas, where the new reduced and redesigned service will help people access local support into employment, training, set up micro and social enterprise and obtain support around financial and digital inclusion.

6.0 Economic Implications

6.1 The Council's links to local businesses across all neighbourhoods will potentially be reduced by the loss of LNP support. Projects within neighbourhoods involving local businesses will be lost.

7.0 Environmental Implications

7.1 The Environmental Implications of this proposal represent some risk as detailed below. The service will no longer provide citywide interventions in terms of problem sites identified by the local community or be able to deliver and support environmental improvement projects in all neighbourhoods. This will lead to potentially higher levels of dereliction across the City

8.0 Equality Implications

8.1 An equalities analysis screening has been completed, some possible equality implications have been identified, a full equality analysis has begun

9.0 Financial Implications

9.1 The Financial Implications in terms of savings and investments are as described in the proposal above. To note that this proposal includes an invest to save requirement of £140,000 in 2014/15. This is a grant of £10,000 for each of the 14 Local Neighbourhood Partnerships.

10.0 Health Implications

10.1 The Health Implications of this proposal represent some risk as detailed below: Loss of LNPs and social networks could increase isolation and mental health problems, particularly among the more elderly, hence the proposal to offer support in 2014/15 to help groups to become self-sustaining.

11.0 Legal Implications

11.1 The Legal Implications of this proposal are minimal provided due process is followed

12.0 Policy Implications

12.1 The Policy Implications on agreed Council policy represent some risk in terms of Empowering People and Communities with the loss of a citywide service through which local networks and communities are supported to influence service provision and the future of their neighbourhood. Although expenditure and coverage citywide will be reduced citywide the new proposed service will be considerably strengthened in targeted neighbourhoods in delivering all three Corporate Priority Themes – Encouraging Business and Enterprise, Empowering People and Communities, Re-

invigorating the city.

13.0 Procurement Implications

13.1 The Procurement Implications of this proposal are minimal.

14.0 Staffing Implications

14.1 The HR Implications of this proposal represent some risk as detailed below. Six mainstream posts will be lost out of a team of thirteen. Reductions in employee numbers will be achieved through voluntary redundancies in first instance in line with Council scheme. Further reductions in service and employee numbers will require fair and due process to be followed regarding consultation, selection and implementation of any compulsory redundancies.

15.0 Trade Union Implications

15.1 **No Implications Recorded.**