

Agenda item:

[No 1]

Cabinet

On 24 March 2009

Report Title. Area Priority Plans

Report of: Sharon Kemp, Assistant Chief Executive PPP&C

Signed :

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Wards(s) affected: **All**

Report for: **Non Key Decision**

1. Purpose of the report

1.1. To agree the development and implementation of Area Priority Plans to provide a co-ordinated framework for achieving service improvements at a local level.

2. Introduction by Cabinet Member (if necessary)

2.1. I very much welcome the introduction of the Area Priority Plans. They clearly set out for the first time the work Neighbourhood Management is undertaking with the Council and its Partners.

2.2. Neighbourhood Management is central to supporting the work the Council and Partners in building our engagement with residents and community groups to ensure that local people have greater opportunities to have their say. From April 2009 Council's new 'duty to involve' will require a culture of engagement and empowerment across the authority's functions.

2.3. Area Priority Plans provide a co-ordinating framework for joint working to achieve service improvements at a local level. These are seen as organic documents and will therefore evolve over the coming period. I would welcome comments.

3. State link(s) with Council Plan Priorities and actions and /or other Strategies:

- 3.1 **Council Plan priorities** - Delivering excellent, customer focused, cost effective services
- 3.2 **SCS Priorities** – People at the heart of change, Be people and customer focused
- 3.3 **Key Local Area Agreement (LAA) targets** –
- NI1% of people who believe people from different backgrounds get on well together in their local area
 - NI4 % of people who feel that they can influence decisions in their locality
- 3.4 **Links with existing strategies and initiatives** e.g. Children and Young People's Strategic Plan, Well-being Strategic Framework, Greenest Borough Strategy, Homelessness Strategy, COMPACT, Local Involvement Networks (LINKs), Youth Council, Local Area Assemblies, Research Governance in social care, service user representation on partnership boards,
- 3.5 **Links with forthcoming strategies and initiatives** e.g. Consultation Strategy, Communication Strategy, Volunteering strategy, participatory budgeting, and the Council's Draft Community Engagement Framework

4. Recommendations

That the Area Priority Plans be agreed as a framework to co-ordinate activities to achieve key priorities in each Area Assembly

5. Reason for recommendation(s)

- 5.1 The development of Area Priority Plans provide transparent priorities that structure the work of the Council and Partners within the Assembly Areas.
- 5.2 From April 2009 local authorities will be expected to introduce the new 'duty to involve' which seeks to ensure that local people have greater opportunities to have their say. The aspiration for the new duty is to embed a culture of engagement and empowerment across the authority's functions.
- 5.3 The Audit Commission will be testing the level and quality of public engagement (and empowerment) as part of the CAA assessment process. This assessment will seek evidence of resident involvement in local decision making and positive outcomes.

6. Other options considered

- 6.1. N/A

7. Summary

- 7.1. This report contains the seven Draft Area Priority Plans which form the work programme for the Neighbourhood Management Service to deliver in conjunction with other Council Services and Partners. These plans are based upon local information and address key issues raised within local communities. Area Priority Plans are being developed as a co-ordinating framework for achieving service improvements at a local level. The Plans are attached at Appendix A are draft and still subject to further development and amendment.
- 7.2. It updates members on progress in developing Area Priority Plans and the role in strengthening the local collection and use of information across Council Services and Partners to better understand and meet customer needs and community priorities.

8. Background

- 8.1 Involving local people in improving local services is central to the work of the Neighbourhood Management Service and the Council and Partners. This ensures that there is a flow of information and intelligence from residents to those delivering services in each neighbourhood. Area Assemblies, support to councillors and engagement with residents, community groups and at residents' meetings, and area based working meetings all work to facilitate this process. The Making the Difference programme is an important mechanism for local people to have their say in what improvements they would like to see in their area.
- 8.2 Area priority Plans are based on local priorities and link to delivering LAA outcomes. Delivery of priority plans will be through area based working.
- 8.3 There are many other examples of projects initiated and coordinated at a local level through the Area Based Working process which have been able to provide long term solutions to complex problems or have been able to influence services and resources to address locally specific problems or issues.
- 8.4 Examples of results achieved from co-ordinated multi agency action include:

- In Wood Green Neighbourhood successful multi agency action has been taken to control anti social behaviour and other problems in un-adopted alleys (waste management/dumping/criminal behaviour);
- In Bruce Grove Neighbourhood through drawing together agencies and directorates to tackle a long standing street drinking problem;
- In Tottenham and Seven Sisters Neighbourhood joint working with Homes for Haringey, Traffic Engineers and the Planning Service to attract funding and to develop an alternative to bin stores on key estates;
- In St. Ann's and Haringay Neighbourhood, after many years of working in a multi agency, problem solving way through the Green Lanes Strategy Group, all agencies have agreed to consult with residents and businesses to develop a charter around service standards and improvement.
- In Crouch End Neighbourhood, Safer Neighbourhood Police teams have been supported to work directly with youth in a positive and effective way to tackle anti social behaviour and to deliver a moped safety project.

9. Area Priority Plans

9.1 Area Priority Plans aim to:

- Use area profiles as a strategic evidence base to identify local priorities in each neighbourhood by using ward data, statistics and local intelligence;
- Ensure that they provide a co-ordinated framework for achieving service improvements at a local level;
- Identify actions to meet local priorities and contribute to the achievement of Community Strategy, Council Plan and Local Area Agreement outcomes;

9.2 Area Priority Plans bring greater focus to the work of local agencies working in partnership. The plans also translate Haringey Community and Strategic Partnership aims and objectives into a local framework for Haringey's Assembly Areas. **See Appendix A for an examples of the current Area Priority Plans**

9.3 The development of Area Priority Plans is a new initiative and it should be recognised that these plans will change and develop throughout the year to respond to local issues. They represent a local multi agency framework to deliver

shared outcomes in response to local need. We need to further refine our capacity to agree SMART targets with our partners and key services, and to ensure that service performance can be measured locally. Each Neighbourhood has analysed baseline information covering themes of people, community cohesion, environment, housing, community safety, economic well being, education, health and social well being, culture and leisure and transport and access. Information and intelligence from the community and partners, and data at ward level has been used to identify key priorities.

9.4 Plans will be reported to the Area Assembly Chairs and local ward Councillors for their area. It is proposed that the Cabinet Member for Community Cohesion and Involvement would agree and sign off each neighbourhood plan with the relevant Area Assembly Chair.

9.5 Updates on achievement of the Area Priority Plans will be provided quarterly to the Cabinet Member for Community Cohesion and Involvement, Area Assembly Chairs and other key stakeholders.

10. Chief Financial Officer Comments

10.1. The Chief Financial Officer has been consulted on the preparation of this report and has no specific comments to make

11. Head of Legal Services Comments

11.1. The recommendations in this report should assist the Council in complying with the new statutory “duty to involve”.

12. Head of Procurement Comments – [Required for Procurement Committee]

12.1. [click here to type]

13. Equalities &Community Cohesion Comments

13.1. The Neighbourhood Management Service will continue to ensure that community engagement and empowerment is targeted and designed to be accessible to all residents. Particular efforts will be made to provide the opportunity for hard to reach communities to engage with the Council and its partners.

14. Consultation

14.1. Consultation with partners, Area Assembly Chairs and ward Councillors has fed into developing the priorities with in the Area Priority Plans.

15. Service Financial Comments

15.1. There are no additional funding implications identified in the implementation of the recommendations of this report.

16. Use of appendices /Tables and photographs

16.1. Appendix A example of the draft Area Priority Plans.

17. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act (2007)

This is the key legislative driver for the development of the community engagement framework as it provides context for engaging people at the local level. From April 2009, Local Authorities have a duty to involve local communities in local decisions, policies and services. Specifically to inform, consult and involve.

Strong and Prosperous Communities

The White Paper promotes community and neighbourhood engagement. It develops the role of overview and scrutiny in relation to external bodies. It provides new requirements on service providers to engage with Sustainable Community Strategies and LAAs.

Communities in Control: real people real power (2008)

This White Paper recognises and supports representative and participative democracy at both the national and local level