

TRAFFORD COUNCIL

Report to: Accounts and Audit Committee
Date: 10 February 2015
Report for: Information
Report of: Head of Partnerships and Communities

Report Title

Annual Governance Statement 2013/14 – update on significant governance issue : Locality Partnerships

Summary

This brief report provides an extract from the 2013/14 Annual Governance Statement outlining one of the significant governance issues identified for further development through 2014/15 i.e. the development of Locality Partnerships.

It also includes a brief update on the progress of the Locality Partnerships and a shift towards Locality Planning.

Recommendation

The Accounts and Audit Committee is asked to note the report for information.

Contact person for access to background papers and further information:

Name: Kerry Purnell
Extension: 2115

Background Papers: none

Annual Governance 2013/14 Statement – Significant Governance Issue : Locality Partnerships

1. Introduction

Detailed below is an extract from the 2013/14 Annual Governance Statement followed by a brief update on actual progress made to date in respect of one of the significant governance issues referred to in the Statement i.e. re the development of Locality Partnerships.

2. Annual Governance Statement 2013/14 Extract

2.1 The following detail was included in sections 5.3 and 5.4 of Trafford Council's 2013/14 Annual Governance Statement :

The Council is committed to achieving its objectives through good governance and continuous improvement. Going forward, the Council will continue to transform service delivery arrangements, to ensure the Council effectively delivers its objectives and manages its resources to meet the on going financial challenges being faced. Detailed below are significant governance issues and a summary of the actions planned to address these in 2014/15

2013/14 Issues and Action Planned 2014/15

3. Locality Partnerships

Wider engagement with the community is essential for the Locality Partnerships (LP) to be successful. LPs need to engage interested stakeholders in their work to enable increased co-production of innovative solutions and local actions, using engagement to understand the opportunities and challenges which will influence future priorities. The shift from 'shadow boards' to established ones is underway, however to ensure transparency and openness, further clarity is required on how the LP will communicate, engage and work with local people. During 2014/15 further improvements will be addressed to improve communications and engagement including:

- A webpage for each Locality Partnership will be created on the Trafford Partnership website to support communication and upon which 'open' profiles of LP members, agendas, presentations, actions, updates etc. can be held.
- The agenda will be published in advance allowing wider local contribution via LP members.
- Membership of sub groups will come from a wider audience than just the LP members (which is already the case in some areas).

Each LP will develop an Engagement Plan and in doing so should consider development of engagement events, social media presence, developing engagement channels between individual LP members, organisations and networks and how to engage all LP members in the work of the LP.

3. Updated position (January 2015)

3.1 Trafford has established four Locality Partnerships, made up of Councillors, partners including the police, health services and council, and Community Ambassadors. Their purpose is to:

- Increase resident and community involvement in local democracy and decision making, increasing service responsiveness and accountability
- Increase involvement in local priority setting
- Increase volunteering, increasing social cohesion, community capacity and resilience
- Enable improved engagement with residents and communities

3.2 Since being launched in April 2013, the Locality Partnerships have continued to meet to progress the priorities set in July 2013:

- Sale - maximising the economic and health benefits of Sale Town Centre.
Sale Locality Partnership has secured £13,000 funding from the Our Place Programme to deliver a project which will explore where families access support and services, assessing how effective services are in reducing demand for more intensive statutory support and enabling families to be more resilient. The project is being led by Sale Moor Community Partnership and THRIVE, alongside a range of partners including Sale High School and Trafford Council's Stronger Families Programme.
- South - intergenerational activity, child obesity and anti-social behaviour.
The South Trafford Locality Partnership has secured a total of £20,000 of funding from the Our Place programme to tackle isolation in older people. The project is led by the Village Ward Vision Partnership and will identify those who are suffering from, or at risk of, social isolation and will develop and enhance locally responsive services which include a directory of services wellbeing survey. The project will develop a series of activities which raise awareness of isolation in the community.
- Urmston & Partington – using park and greenspace to tackle obesity in children and families.

Three working groups have been established to increase the take up of community learning; to explore new ways to increase physical activity

in hard to engage, and increase the use of green space, such as the Mersey Valley (supported by a successful £19k funding bid for improvement works).

- Old Trafford & Stretford – Child obesity and healthy eating, education attainment and youth employment.
Improving where you live: The Locality Partnership is supporting small scale environmental improvements in by launching a small grants scheme. The partnership is keen to help local residents who live in an urban environment, to create a clean sustainable space of which they can take ownership. Grants of up to £250 are available for groups to enhance and improve a local communal space, such as an alleyway.

3.3 **Strategic considerations**

The Chair and Community Ambassador of each LP now attend the Strong Communities Board, ensuring a link between the strategic partnership and localities and there is one community representative on the Trafford Partnership Executive. In addition to their identified themes, the Partnerships have considered strategic issues such as the Trafford 2021 Vision, Trafford's Homelessness strategy and the delivery plans for the Third Sector Infrastructure contract.

3.4 **Voluntary Sector Grants**

Locality Partnerships have led the Council's 2014 Voluntary Sector Grants process to allocate £120,000 through participatory budgeting community engagement events. The partnerships are now forging links with those organisations awarded funds to network, mentor and monitor their progress.

3.5 **Community Engagement**

Spring into Sale 29TH March 2014

Across various locations in Sale town centre fun and healthy interactive activities were held by a range of partners and community organisations alongside a programme of performance delivered by talented local people. The Locality Partnership undertook a consultation exercise where attendees were asked what they liked best about Sale and what they would change.

UPP Local Networking Event

Urmston & Partington Partnership hosted an event on Thursday 27th November 2014 for community groups from across the area. Held at Flixton House, the event aimed to encourage organisations to connect, share ideas and resources and find out about funding opportunities to help with their respective ventures. Over 40 representatives from local groups across Urmston and Partington attended.

- 3.6 As part of the Locality Planning programme (see below) each Locality Partnership will be developing a comprehensive communications and engagement plan, which will include the use of web pages and social media.

3.7 **Asset Based Community Development (Abcd)**

The Trafford Partnership Annual Conference in April 2014, discussed a strengths based approach to connecting people at street level, and the role of Community Community Connectors, local volunteers who naturally build relations host conversations and value networks. Their activity can grow 'associations of associations' where ideas can be shared and acted upon providing an impetus for change.' Abcd' is being considered currently by the Locality Partnerships in their approach to locality planning and association of association events have been held in some areas. For more information please see www.traffordpartnership.org/aboutus/partnershipevent

3.8 **Locality Partnership review summer 2014**

During the summer 2014 a review was undertaken exploring the roles and responsibilities of Locality Partnerships aligned with the development of a strategic approach to locality working. Through conversations with key stakeholders from across the sectors, the review recognised progress to date and identified challenges and opportunities moving forward.

3.9 The positive observations:

- Locality Partnerships provide the bridge between statutory partners and communities and can encourage innovation and co-production.
- Community Ambassadors have benefited from seeing the bigger picture and their contributions ensure different perspectives are fed into what have been traditionally strategic (and often public sector) conversations.
- Strong value placed on the benefits of working in partnership.

3.10 Issues and Challenges identified with Locality Partnerships:

- There needs to be greater connectivity between the strategic partnerships, the third sector and neighbourhood and community partnerships (and therefore local action on the ground), using Locality Partnerships and Locality Plans as a vehicle to achieve this.
- There is a degree of confusion about the role of the Locality Partnerships with a perception, by some, that their defined membership means they are meetings making significant decisions behind closed doors.
- Elected Members need clearer guidance on the roles and responsibilities of Locality Partnerships and their role within them.

3.11 The review made 2 key recommendations:

1. Development of evidenced-based, outcome focussed locality plans which, have the buy in of all stakeholders across the Trafford Partnership and are owned by the community but held in trust by the Locality Partnerships.
2. The creation of Ward Assemblies within each locality to bring all ward members together to share information and enable a collective view of what matters in the locality to contribute to locality planning and to develop the scrutiny role by taking resolutions made by Ward Assemblies to the Executive and the Council. This recommendation is yet to be pursued.

These recommendations have been considered by the Council Executive.

3.12 **Issues and Challenges identified for locality working**

The following were identified through discussions with the Trafford Partnership Executive and the Stronger Communities Board. Locality Plans should seek to:

- Drive down demand
- Focus on outcomes not meeting structures and add value
- Enable a wider dialogue with residents and the third sector about how we can all work together to deliver values services in communities but in a different way, thus providing the impetus for continued community engagement led by the Locality Partnerships
- Take account of committed pieces of work
- Influence allocation of resources and public service reform
- Be live and dynamic.

3.13 **Locality Planning Programme**

3.14 The Trafford Partnership Executive has given a commitment to support Locality Partnerships in exploring how to develop locality plans and embed locality working in ways relevant to each locality. Each Locality Partnership may approach locality planning in a different way and at a different pace and may choose to widen membership to ensure the right people are around the table and engaged in the planning process.

3.15 A small steering group has been established to support the programme facilitated by the Partnerships and Communities service. The following framework has been suggested as a means to shape the locality planning process and to ensure that decisions taken by locality partnerships are evidenced based and intelligence led and that the requisite buy-in of key stakeholders has been achieved at both strategic, locality and frontline delivery levels. The suggested timeframes are subject to change.

3.16 The Locality Partnerships have the freedom to co-opt any person they see fit to on to the Partnership to help them develop effective community engagement and a locality plan.

3.17 It is proposed to hold a Trafford Council internal workshop on locality working to achieve commitment to the locality planning process from all services at a strategic and operational level and to achieve a shared understanding of what locality working means currently for services and what it might mean in the next 6 to 12 months in light of the Reshaping Trafford programme.

3.18

Outline Framework for Locality Planning

Stage 1 - Initial engagement (Nov 2014 to March 2015)

- Take the discussion to each Locality Partnership
- Brief and engage all ward members
- Further discussions with delivery agencies at Borough-wide level

Stage 2 – Thematic profiles (Dec 2014 to March 2015)

- Commission refresh of strategic data/intelligence & existing community intelligence
- Map & align current thematic strategies
- Review Priority Neighbourhood Action Plans
- Map community assets and networks
- Use the above to identify top 4-5 key challenges / opportunities in each locality

Stage 3 – Engagement with Thematic Partnerships (Jan to March 2015)

- Take discussion to TP Thematic Partnerships to identify key strategic priorities and direction for LP's and what this means for local delivery

Stage 4 – Locality Planning community engagement plans (Dec 2014 to March 2015)

- Locality Planning working groups, involving a range of key stakeholders, develop their plans for engaging the wider community in locality planning

Stage 5 – Locality Planning process sign off (March to April 2015)

- Share data outcomes and strategic directions with LP's
- Community engagement proposals presented and agreed by LP's
- Locality Planning process signed off at Strong Communities Board and Partnership Executive
- for each priority.

Stage 6 – Community Engagement (April to June 2015)

- Dialogue by Locality Partnerships with residents, businesses, neighbourhood partnership and third sector providers
- Community Engagement 'listening' (Appreciative Enquiry) event/s and/or through neighbourhood structures/ other community events

Stage 7 – Formation of Locality Plans (June to Sept 2015)

- Locality Partnerships review all information collected
- Locality Partnership agrees key priorities
- Outcome focussed SMART action plans developed for each priority with emphasis on meeting gaps in provision and on the Public Service Reform agenda.
- Links demonstrated between Locality Plans and Strategic priorities to ensure buy-in at all levels of the Trafford Partnership.
- Task/Finish or Working groups convened for each locality priority. Lead agency and/or Ward Member and/or Community Ambassador identified for each priority.

Stage 8 – Ongoing monitoring, review and engagement

- Locality Partnerships monitor, support and challenge delivery, and continue programme of community engagement to ensure priorities remain accurate and the community are actively involved in delivery of the plans

Locality Plans are owned by the Community and 'held in trust' by the Locality Partnership. They are dynamic, constantly reviewed for progress and blockages and updated as required.