

TRAFFORD COUNCIL

Report to: Accounts and Audit Committee
Date: 20 November 2013
Report for: Information
Report of: Head of Partnerships and Performance

Report Title

Annual Governance Statement 2012/13 – update on significant governance issue : Locality Partnerships

Summary

This brief report provides an extract from the 2012/13 Annual Governance Statement outlining one of the significant governance issues identified for further development through 2013/14 i.e. the development of Locality Partnerships.

It also includes a brief update on the progress of the Locality Partnerships.

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: Jayne Stephenson
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Background Papers: none

Annual Governance 2012/13 Statement – Significant Governance Issue : Locality Partnerships

1. Introduction

Detailed below is an extract from the 2012/13 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 2012/13 Extract

The following detail was included in sections 5.3 and 5.4 of Trafford Council's 2012/13 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 ongoing financial challenges being faced.

Detailed below are significant governance issues and a summary of the actions planned to address these in 2013/14.

2012/13 Issues and Action Planned 2013/14

2. Locality Partnerships

..... the Council has set out its commitment to involve residents and devolve services to local communities. This includes the introduction of four Locality Boards from April 2013 to be launched with a role in engaging the community, understanding local needs and coordinating existing plans and activities.

The Locality Partnerships will be developed during 2013/14 and transform from shadow form to full status. During the first year a Locality Assessment and action plan will be developed, alongside terms of reference and a code of conduct. An outcomes framework will also be developed, linked to the action plan, and will focus on not only quantitative outcomes but also qualitative outcomes and experiences.

The governance framework includes reporting to the Stronger Communities Board and the Trafford Partnership Executive.

3. Updated position (November 2013)

3.1 Trafford has established Locality Partnerships, made up of Councillors, partners including the police, health services and council, and Community Ambassadors. There are four Locality Partnerships (*note name changes*) that will comprise of the following areas:

- Old Trafford & Stretford - Gorse Hill, Longford, Stretford, Clifford
- South - Altrincham, Bowdon, Broadheath, Hale Barns, Hale Central, Timperley, Village
- Urmston & Partington - Bucklow St Martins (Partington), Davyhulme East, Davyhulme West, Flixton, Urmston
- Sale - Bucklow St Martins (Sale), Ashton upon Mersey, Brooklands, Priory, Sale Moor, St Marys

3.2 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

3.3 They will do this by:

- Enabling the community to contribute to the solution to key challenges, ensuring improvements are more sustainable and more effective, whilst influencing public sector services to redeploy resources more effectively
- Brokering engagement between strategic partner organisations and local residents and communities, utilising more effective methods of engagement

Progress to-date

- 3.4 Since being launched in April 2013, the four Locality Partnerships have met three times. Overall, the feelings across the four partnerships are that they were well attended, with a good atmosphere, balanced views and a drive to take action and make a positive impact. Each partnership has its own terms of reference, setting out their vision, purpose, role and values, which they developed at their first meetings in June.
- 3.5 Each partnership has a Chair Team, made up of a Councillor (who is the LP Chair), Community Ambassador and Statutory Partner. Memberships of these have been agreed, and they are working closely together to drive forward the partnership, set agendas and manage activity. The Chair and Community Ambassador of each LP now attend the Strong Communities Board, ensuring a link between the strategic partnership and localities.
- 3.6 Each partnership is developing a common understanding of the capacity, talent, skills, knowledge, connections, relationships and physical assets in the locality, aligning the data and information with their local knowledge and the views of local people. Workshops took place in late July, and from these have emerged initial themes for the partnerships to focus on:
- Sale - maximising the economic and health benefits of Sale Town Centre
 - South - intergenerational activity, child obesity and anti-social behaviour
 - U&P – using park and greenspace to tackle obesity in children and families
 - OT&S – Child obesity and healthy eating, education attainment and youth employment

These themes have been further explored at the meetings held in September, with working groups and action plans being developed.

- 3.7 In addition to their identified themes, the partnerships will consider strategic issues which come through the Strong Communities Partnership or other Thematics. At the meetings in September they discussed Trafford College's Community Learning resources, and future agenda items include Winter Planning and Trafford's Core Strategy. Thematics are welcome to suggest agenda items via the Partnerships Team.

- 3.8 Many of the Locality Partnership members are involved in delivering the projects developed at the Partnership Event. In total there are 14 projects across the four localities, with four projects receiving £2500 start-up funding on the day. These projects will sit within the Locality Partnership action plan, enabling the partnership to support immediate activity and engage with a wider audience. So far, there has been a successful multi-agency event in Sale Moor, engagement work with businesses in Old Trafford, establishment of a community food growing project in the South of the borough and an innovative training scheme for young people is being developed in Urmston and Partington. For more information on the projects visit www.traffordpartnership.org/aboutus/partnershipevent
- 3.9 In addition, having been invited to shortlist the Council's Voluntary Sector Grant applications, the Locality Partnership Chairs and members had a lead role at the four voting events which took place on the 22nd and 29th June. 538 residents attended, up 20% from last year..
- 3.10 Both the South and Old Trafford & Stretford LPs have agreed, in principle, to undertake a Street Association pilot.

Partnership Chair debrief meetings

- 3.11 After each round of LP meetings the chair teams come together to provide feedback on how their partnerships are progressing and any issues / challenges arising. This allows for the sharing of best practice and to identify any emerging themes which can be approached at a strategic level. The last LP Chair meeting to take place was on 17th October, with at least two of the three LP chair teams in attendance and in two instances all three members were in attendance which demonstrates the leadership and commitment the chair teams have to their partnerships.
- 3.12 The positive observations:
- High levels of expectation/ engagement, especially in OT & Stretford and also Sale which demonstrates the need for a locality focus
 - Setting of priorities (s2.3) has provided a focus for the LPs to begin to develop local solutions to local need/opportunities.
 - Each Partnership is different in its approach to the meeting formats

- The Sale chair team are actively seeking engagement with neighbourhood partnerships e.g. Sale West, Sale Moor, Sale Town Centre to explore how they can work together and avoid duplication of effort / resources
- There is real energy and creativity being demonstrated
- Development of a sub-group structure to ensure activity is progressed in between meetings, also helps to maintain the energy described above
- Welcomed the offer of Trafford College to seek the support of the LPs to develop the Community Learning programme
- Attendance – in most instances there is at least a two third attendance, however this dipped for the August meeting

3.13 Challenges identified

- Maintaining the energy and innovation including ‘quick wins’ e.g. CeSaw community safety event in Sale
- OT & Stretford have a two community ambassador vacancies and also space to expand – process agreed to ensure the right people / organisations are attracted
- Exploration of communication/engagement techniques/channels, including Social Media to both increase the profile of the LPs and engagement with the wider community.

Activity in the pipeline

- 3.15 To support the profile of the LPs it has been agreed to develop the Trafford Partnership branding and tailor to the LPs. This will allow for both a recognised ‘corporate’ brand whilst supporting the individual nature of each locality.
- 3.16 As part of the review process which seeks to regularly review the effectiveness of the LPs, a half day event will be held in January 2014, where all members of the LPs will be invited along to share their journey, best practice and areas for improvement. The Partnership is also seeking to secure Cormack Russell, founder of the ABCD concept (Asset Based Community Development), or present by virtual link, this will be supported by examples of this approach in the community from both the Lostock area (Forever Manchester).