

REPORT TO: COMMUNITY PLANNING BOARD – 7 JULY 2011

SUBJECT: COMMITTEE AND COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP ALIGNMENT

BY: CORPORATE POLICY UNIT MANAGER

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 The Community Planning Board is asked to approve the implementation of the conclusions of a Community Planning seminar on the link between the community planning partnership and council decision making structures.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 The Community Planning Board is asked to approve the conclusions set out in paragraph 3.3 of this report arising from the seminar.
- 2.2 The Community Planning Board is asked to note the future dates of the partnership meetings and consider holding an additional meeting of the Community Planning Board in August/September to enable the Board to progress the outcomes from the seminar.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The meeting of Council on 7 July 2010, agreed to pilot the alignment of the community planning partnership and council committee structures for 1 cycle. This pilot was extended by a further 2 cycles to enable the review of the pilot to be undertaken.
- 3.2 A review was undertaken during January and February 2011 and reported back to the Community Planning Board and Council in March 2011. During the review a number of suggestions for improvement were made and it was recommended that a seminar be held to explore the suggestions in more detail.
- 3.3 A seminar, held on 13 May 2011, reached the following conclusions:-
- Community Planning Partnership and the Council decision making structures i.e Committee structures should be aligned, not merged to enable, where relevant, items from the Community Planning Partnership to be referred to Committee and vice versa for consideration.
 - The role, remit and responsibility of lead officers, the theme groups and the Community Planning Board be clarified to address the need:-
 - For reports to relate to the Single Outcome Agreement and the achievement of either national or local priorities
 - For there to be focus on progress and performance in the achievement of national or local priorities.

- Recognise the role of the groups, the Board and the Committees can be any one of the following depending on the circumstances:-

- (ii) Facilitating
- (iii) Decision making (unconditional; conditional to disagree)
- (iv) Consultee
- (v) Policy making and influencing

- Recognise in terms of progress and performance the empowerment of lead officers and other key officers to make decisions within their gift and the power of veto if they are outwith their remit.

➤ Partners' role of delegation would be defined.

- 3.4 Arising from the agreement of the seminar it is proposed that the Community Planning group meet 2 weeks prior to the deadline for reports to the relevant Committee. This would allow enough time for officers to refer an item to Committee if required. Future meetings reflect the revised alignment and meetings start at 9.30 am. The dates are:-

Healthier – 1 September & 19 January
 Safer and Stronger – 8 September & 26 January
 Smarter – 15 September & 2 February
 Greener – 29 September & 16 February
 Weatherier and Fairer – 13 October & 1 March
 Community Planning Board – 10 November & 29 March

- 3.5 In addition, two dates (27 October & 15 March) for the Community Engagement Group have been included in the schedule at this time which can be used for the two planned community engagement seminars, if appropriate. Approval of these dates are considered under another report on this agenda.

- 3.6 During the last couple of meeting cycles, some of the theme group meetings have been postponed due to a lack of a quorum. As identified at the seminar this may reflect the need to clarify the roles and remits of the theme groups to ensure that the agenda is meaningful to the representatives and that the representatives are appropriate to address the remit. Given this it is proposed that the work be undertaken on the conclusions from the seminar over the next couple of months prior to the beginning of the new cycle of meetings.

- 3.7 Additionally, as stated in the other report on the Single Outcome Agreement, there may be a need for the Board to meet before the next scheduled meeting to consider the SOA issues and to consider the work on the seminar conclusions.

4. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

- (a) Single Outcome Agreement/ Service Improvement Plan**
Improvement to the Community Planning structure is in keeping with local priority on efficiencies and the national priority 15 in which “our public services are high quality continually improving, efficient and responsive to local people’s needs”.
- (b) Policy and Legal**
There is no policy or legal requirement in relation to the structure of community planning.
- (c) Financial implications**
This proposal may provide a mechanism to streamline the decision making process while eliminating duplication.
- (d) Risk Implications**
None as the meetings will continue regardless of the agreed dates.
- (e) Staffing Implications**
This proposal may provide a mechanism to streamline the decision making process while eliminating duplication.
- (f) Property**
None
- (g) Equalities**
Equalities are addressed within the safer and stronger theme.
- (h) Consultations**
Community Planning partners, lead officers and elected members were consulted during the review of the alignment and participated in the Community Planning seminar on 13 May 2011.

5.0 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 The Community Planning Board identified a number of conclusions from the seminar which now need to be progressed. Though the meeting dates for the partnership have been agreed, there may be a need to hold an additional meeting of the Board in August/September to enable the meeting to address the seminar conclusions as well as other issues relating to the Single Outcome Agreement.**

Author of Report:	Bridget Mustard
Background Papers:	
Ref:	HB 950131