

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

02 December 2009

CABINET

LOCAL NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIPS

Responsible Portfolio Holder	Cllr. Roger Hollingworth, Leader of the Council
Responsible Officer	Hugh Bennett Assistant Chief Executive

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 To ask Cabinet to consider the attached business case for Local Neighbourhood Partnerships (LNPs) attached at Appendix 1.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 It is recommended that Cabinet:-

- i. Agrees to the closure of all LNPs at the 31 March 2010.
- ii. Notes that this will produce a revenue saving of £90,000 in 2010/2011 and £120,000 in 2011/2012.
- iii. Notes that the continued expansion of the LNPs would have led to a saving of £150,000 in 2012/2013.
- iv. Closes the Charford LNP with immediate effect, releasing a 2009/2010 revenue saving of £10,000 and direct the saving to The Trunk.
- v. Agrees that £25,000 of the annual revenue saving for 10/11, 11/12 and 12/13 be re-directed to the LSP to allocate to local super output areas i.e. areas of relative deprivation.

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The White Paper, "Communities in Control" identified the need for local government to re-engage with our local communities to combat the declining interest in local politics and residents perception of their ability to influence decisions affecting them (see Place Survey results).
- 3.2 In December 2006, two pilot Local Neighbourhood Partnerships were established, initially with an administration budget of £4,000 each.
- 3.3 A mid-term independent evaluation was undertaken and concluded the LNPs needed to be put on a firmer footing, in particular, a delegated budget and a clear terms of reference.

Both of these were put into effect and the 2009/2012 medium term financial plan included a budget allocation of £60,000 (09/10), £90,000 (10/11) and £120,000 (11/12). The budget figures were based on £5,000 per Member, with the delegation being to each LNP. The eventual roll out cost would therefore be £195,000.

- 3.4 Currently three LNPs are in operation: Rubery, Alvechurch and Beoley and Hagley and Rural. A fourth LNP was due to be established in Charford, but due to issues about working in partnership between the district councillors and the county councillor, this LNP has not gone live.
- 3.5 Cabinet will be aware that the financial climate has changed dramatically over the last twelve months. The Council is predicting a revenue support grant reduction of 5% per annum, a lower council tax rise, reduced interest income and reduced charges income. As a consequence of this and regardless of the success or otherwise of the LNPs, the report is recommending their closure from 31 March 2010.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 A revenue saving of £90,000 (2010/11) and £120,000 (2011/12). A revenue saving of £10,000 based on the immediate closure of the Charford LNP.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Council has a legal “duty to involve” its residents, but LNPs are one of many mechanisms for doing this and so closure of the LNPs does not cause any legal issues.

6. COUNCIL OBJECTIVES

- 6.1 The new priority – value for money – is the most relevant.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

Corporate Risk Title	Improvement Plan Reference
KO1: Effective Financial Management and Internal Control	FP1 – Managing Finances

8. CUSTOMER IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 The closure of the LNPs will mean a reduced service to the public, but the services provided e.g. hanging baskets, signage etc. are discretionary and not core services.

9. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 No implications.

10. VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 See financial implications above.

11. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Procurement Issues: Will need to continue with procurement on committed schemes to year end.
Personnel Implications: None.
Governance/Performance Management: Termination of terms of reference for LNPs..
Community Safety including Section 17 of Crime and Disorder Act 1998: Potential reductions in services, in particular, divisionary activities.
Policy: Removal of LNPs from Community Engagement Policy..
Environmental: None.

12. OTHERS CONSULTED ON THE REPORT

Portfolio Holder	Via E-Mail and at Leader's.
Chief Executive	Via E-Mail and at Leader's.
Executive Director (Partnerships and Projects)	No.
Executive Director (Services)	No.
Assistant Chief Executive	Yes
Head of Service	No.
Head of Financial Services	Via E-mail.
Head of Legal & Democratic Services	No.
Head of Organisational Development & HR	No.
Corporate Procurement Team	No.

13. WARDS AFFECTED

- 13.1 Beacon, Charford, Waseley, Alvechurch, Hagley, Uffdown and Furlongs. Had the LNPs been fully rolled out, all wards would have been affected.

14. APPENDICES

- 14.1 Appendix 1 Full Business Case.

15. BACKGROUND PAPERS:

15.1 Neighbourhood Area Committee Evaluation, Cabinet, 30 April 2009.

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