

**NEIGHBOURHOOD MANAGEMENT
(Report by Community Initiatives Manager)**

1. WHAT IS NEIGHBOURHOOD MANAGEMENT

- 1.1 Neighbourhood Management is a key element of central government's national strategy for neighbourhood renewal. To date over 120 neighbourhood management initiatives are being developed and implemented across England. The level of interest reflects the extent to which neighbourhood management is being seen as a potentially effective approach to providing services in deprived/failing communities.
- 1.2 Neighbourhood Management is an approach that supports local communities and service providers to work together in partnership to improve local outcomes by improving and joining up local services (not just Huntingdonshire District Council services) and making them more responsive to local needs.
- 1.3 Unlike other area based initiatives Neighbourhood Management is **not** about distributing money but rather focuses on changing the relationship between service providers, improving their responsiveness to local needs and building a sense of shared responsibility on the ground.
- 1.4 The term 'Neighbourhood Management' is used to cover a variety of different approaches and initiatives being delivered through different partnership vehicles. However the basic criterion for a neighbourhood management initiative is that it:-
- a) Operating at a neighbourhood level with capacity to follow through on agreed priorities (i.e. dedicated management resource, and more than a local forum or area committee with a purely consultative role);
 - b) Seeking to improve the delivery and provision of a range of services (i.e. not simply housing management or single authority services);
 - c) Engaging local people and reflecting locally identified priorities.

2. HOW IS NEIGHBOURHOOD MANAGEMENT DELIVERED

- 2.1 A wide range of organisations are promoting Neighbourhood Management, Local Authorities and elsewhere Local Strategic Partnerships are the main/key sponsors. In many areas where a Neighbourhood Management is or has been developed it is part of the respective Local Strategic Partnership's Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy.
- 2.2 Neighbourhood Management initiatives appear to be taking time at the outset to establish local priorities and establish strong base line information (most if not all this information is already available in Huntingdonshire and just needs collating).

- 2.3 The majority of Neighbourhood Management Initiatives have adopted the approach of having a single team, headed by a neighbourhood manager, responsible for the Neighbourhood. The Local Government Association recommends that the most successful approach to establishing successful neighbourhood management teams is to second staff from the partner agencies with one of the statutory agencies acting as lead agency. (Please see the attached diagram appendix B that sets out a possible management structure and reporting procedure).

3. WHERE DOES NEIGHBOURHOOD MANAGEMENT FIT?

- 3.1 It is generally anticipated that in the forthcoming local government White Paper (expected October 06) issues including:

- Community neighbourhood empowerment,
- Neighbourhood level agreements,
- Local government as convenors of local services,
- LSPs to establish Neighbourhood strategies,
- Neighbourhood charters and action plans, and
- Enhanced roles for local councillors;

will all figure prominently. Increasingly neighbourhood working is also likely to figure in the achievement of Local Area Agreement targets.

- 3.2 In addition to the above the Local Government act 2000, gave local authorities a duty to consult local people on priorities for their local area when drawing up their community strategy and placed a responsibility on Councils to establish a single non-statutory multi agency body to tackle those issues that affect the lives of local people that require a multi agency response.

- 3.3 In addition, Police forces including Cambridgeshire Constabulary are increasingly moving to establish a neighbourhood policing model. The Primary Care Trust are moving towards developing a neighbourhood management approach to service delivery and the Office of Children and Young Peoples Services of the County Council are now to be delivered via locality teams.

4. WHAT WOULD NEIGHBOURHOOD MANAGEMENT LOOK LIKE IN HUNTINGDONSHIRE

- 4.1 The Neighbourhood management model is not an approach that can be applied district-wide recommendations from the Government's Neighbourhood Renewal Unit are that for a neighbourhood management programme to be successful target areas should be no less than 5000 and no more than 12000 residents.


- 4.2 In addition to the points outlined in 1.2 above, there is urgency for all statutory agencies to identify savings and economies of scale, policy imperatives are also leading local authorities and other service providers to examine more local approaches to the delivery of services. The development of local neighbourhood agreements within a neighbourhood management framework should meet both efficiency and service provision requirements and at the same time ensure services reflect the needs and requirements of local residents.

- 4.3 It is essential within the neighbourhood management programme to have a very active strategy and process for involving a wide sector of the local community in the decision making process within the neighbourhood management catchments area a long term legacy objective of the neighbourhood management initiative would be to encourage and facilitate active citizenship in local issues.
- 4.4 The areas within Huntingdonshire most suited to developing a neighbourhood management approach initially would be the Oxmoor and Eynesbury areas of Huntingdonshire. In the document 'Huntingdonshire Today' only the Eynesbury and Huntingdon North (Oxmoor) fall in the worst 10% across categories including crime, education and skills, employment, Health and Disability. These two areas are of course the only two 'small' areas the Police have chosen for specific neighbourhood policing teams. Further analysis of data across variety of partners would be likely to confirm these localities as priorities. Appendix 'A' attached demonstrates in more detail why the above two areas have been identified as a priority.
- 4.5 A working party of partners is already working on the options for continued partnership working in the Oxmoor area following the end of the SRB Programme in March 2007. A progress report on this process has been presented to The County Council's Cabinet. Following consideration of this report it is proposed that a report be presented to HSP Board in October. The proposal is that we continue working towards a Neighbourhood Management model for the area. The various partners will continue existing budgeted levels of funding which could include the County Councils contribution of circa 78K which will pay for the neighbourhood manager and support charged with coordinating the on going programmes. It is also proposed that investigation of a Neighbourhood model for Eynesbury be undertaken, Hence HDC are already putting in dedicated resource through Community Initiatives.
- 4.6 Notwithstanding the comment above at 4.1 it is probable that the forthcoming White Paper in the autumn will seek to extend neighbourhood working more widely than just priority areas. As far as Huntingdon is concerned, a type of neighbourhood approach has been developed for Ramsey, the Ramsey Area Partnership reporting to the HSP. A more widespread approach might be developed in the way we work with local councils. This however can be left until the White Paper is published, whilst the work on the two priority neighbourhoods is more urgent and specifically in respect of Oxmoor, with the implication of SRB funding coming to an end.
- 4.7 Finally as neighbourhood management gets going more formally it will be necessary to develop a performance management framework through the Strategic Partnership where partners can be accountable for the delivery of their respective contribution and the outcomes for the communities can be monitored.
- 5. RECOMMENDATION**
- 5.1 It is recommended that discussions are continued with other significant service providers to develop the proposals as outlined in this paper.

5.2 Cabinet agree that the localities identified in 4.2 of this report be developed as neighbourhood management initiatives and that the reporting structure be via the HSP.

BACKGROUND PAPERS:

- Huntingdonshire Today
- Neighbourhood management National Network, Scoping Study Summary Report
- ODPM Research Report 23, Neighbourhood Management – at the turning point review 2005-06

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