

**NEIGHBOURHOOD MANAGEMENT – PROGRESS REPORT  
(COMMUNITY MANAGER)****1. Background**

- 1.1 Cabinet received a report on the 21 September 2006 that outlined what neighbourhood management is, how it is delivered, where it fits and what neighbourhood management would look like in Huntingdonshire.
- 1.2 At the meeting on the 21 September members agreed that officers continue discussions with other significant service providers to develop the neighbourhood management proposal. And that the reporting structure for neighbourhood management to be via the Huntingdonshire Strategic Partnership.
- 1.3 The purpose of this report is to inform members of progress to date and request members approval that Ramsey be included in the neighbourhood management initiative along with the Oxmoor and Eynesbury areas of Huntingdonshire.

**2. PROGRESS TO DATE**

- 2.1 In accordance with the recommendations set out in section 5.1 of the 21 September 2006 report Council officers have held several meetings with the agencies who are the significant service providers in the localities, and have agreed the following priority tasks.
  - i. In each of the identified neighbourhood management areas establish locality offices from where those staff (HDC and partner organisations) that are responsible for delivering local services can be co-located (as set out in section 2.3 of the 21 September report).
  - ii. Identify key staff from HDC and partner agencies that will be responsible for the development of neighbourhood management in each locality (this will result in the amendment of present job descriptions).
  - iii. Agree an action program for the first year with targets and a 3 year strategy and monitoring procedures for each neighbourhood management area plus agreed reporting procedures to HSP.
  - iv. The establishment of local neighbourhood partnership forums/management boards, agreement on delegated responsibilities and budget holding.
  - v. That in addition to the Oxmoor and Eynesbury localities the Ramsey town and immediate villages be included in the neighbourhood management initiative, building upon the existing Ramsey Area Partnership arrangements.

- 2.2 Locality offices have been identified for both the Oxmoor and Ramsey neighbourhood projects discussions are on going with Cambridgeshire County Council with regards accommodation located in the Eynesbury area. Costs for the Oxmoor neighbourhood office will be shared between Luminus and Cambridgeshire County Council, Ramsey neighbourhood office costs will be meet for existing resources by Huntingdonshire District Council.
- 2.3 Key staff have been identified from within HDC, Cambridgeshire County Council and Luminus Housing association existing staffing resources, (HDC Community Development Officer, CCC Oxmoor SRB Manager, Luminus Housing association Community Development Officer) who will take on the roles of neighbourhood development co-ordinators. Officers are currently reviewing the Job descriptions of the above post holders the aim is to have one Job Description for all three posts.
- 2.4 Action plans and 3 year strategies for each neighbourhood management area and reporting procedures to HSP have still to be fully resolved. However, strategic partnership board members are due to consider the recommendation at their meeting on 14 February, that Neighbourhood Management be a standing agenda item at HSP executive meetings, and that representatives from partner agencies involved in the neighbourhood management programme be entitled to attend executive board meetings for this item. Appendix A attached sets out a management model for Neighbourhood Management.
- 2.5 This initiative will require the establishment of local neighbourhood partnership forums/management boards in each of the three areas. In both Oxmoor and Ramsey areas a type of partnership board currently exists. The membership and terms of reference for both of these existing partnership arrangements will require review, as well as agreement on delegated responsibilities, in order to be fit for purpose in the new circumstances. In Eynesbury there will need to be completely new arrangements.
- 2.6 Members will be aware that as far as Oxmoor is concerned, the Single Regeneration Budget (SRB) initiative comes to an end in March 2007. The Oxmoor Opportunities Management Team is completing a final assessment document of the SRB programme. Additionally, it is using some unallocated resources to finance research/consultancy advice regarding the process of moving to the new neighbourhood management initiative. This work will help inform the review of partnership forums/management boards and the development of neighbourhood charters.
- 2.7 Given the existing similarity of the current Ramsey Area Partnership and Neighbourhood Management initiative it is considered appropriate to include the work of the Ramsey Area Partnership as part of this initiative. If Members agree to the inclusion of Ramsey in the Neighbourhood Management initiative the present Ramsey Area Partnerships objectives will be included in the year 1 action plans and 3 year strategy plans for the Ramsey Neighbourhood initiative. The proposed neighbourhood management area will likely to be smaller than the area covered by the present Ramsey Area Partnership. Further discussions are required to bring forward proposals including the rationalisation of the current range of consultative groups which make up the current Ramsey Area Partnership.

- 2.8 Discussions are currently in progress with Cambridgeshire Constabulary to integrate the neighbourhood management initiative and the recently introduced neighbourhoods policing initiative and the operation of neighbourhood policing panels in the three target locations, in order to avoid duplication of effort and provide the community with a co-ordinated transparent approach.

### **3. RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Ramsey area be included in the neighbourhood management initiative.
- 3.2 Cabinet note the progress to date and recommend the initiative to the Huntingdonshire Strategic Partnership Board at its meeting on 14 February.

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Cabinet report, Neighbourhood management 21 September 2006

Huntingdonshire Today

ODPM research report 23, Neighbourhood Management – at a turning point review 2005-06

National Neighbourhood Management Network report – The Case for Neighbourhood Management, November 2006

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