

AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET

Name of Committee Cabinet

Date of Committee 7th December 2006

Report Title **Restructure of Stratford on Avon Local Strategic Partnership**

Summary A report asking Cabinet to confirm its views on the proposals to re-structure the Local Strategic Partnership in light of the overall direction that the Local Area Agreement Governance Task and Finish Group is taking on Local Area Agreement matters.

For further information please contact: Sarah Duxbury
Corporate Legal Services
Manager
Tel: 01926 412090
sarahduxbury@warwickshire.gov.uk

Would the recommended decision be contrary to the Budget and Policy Framework? No.

Background papers Letter from Stratford District Partnership

Report to Stratford on Avon Area Committee (attached)

CONSULTATION ALREADY UNDERTAKEN:-

Details to be specified

- Other Committees Stratford on Avon Area Committee – 22 November 2006
- Local Member(s)
- Other Elected Members Cllr Booth, Cllr Hicks, Cllr Atkinson – for information
- Cabinet Member Cllr Peter Fowler
- Chief Executive
- Legal David Carter
- Finance
- Other Chief Officers
- District Councils

Health Authority

Police

Other Bodies/Individuals Martin Gibbins – Stratford Area Manager

FINAL DECISION YES

SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS:

Details to be specified

Further consideration by this Committee

To Council

To Cabinet

To an O & S Committee

To an Area Committee

Further Consultation

Agenda No

Cabinet – 7th December 2006.

Restructure of Stratford on Avon Local Strategic Partnership

Report of the Strategic Director of Performance & Development

Recommendation

That Cabinet supports the revised structure of Stratford Local Strategic Partnership in the light of views of the Stratford on Avon Committee.

1. Background

- 1.1. At its last meeting the Stratford on Avon Local Strategic Partnership (the Partnership) agreed to consult with partners on a draft revised structure for the Core Group.
- 1.2. The County Council has now received a letter from the Stratford District Partnership formally requesting the County Council's view on the proposals. The Core Group is currently made up as follows:

- 3 representatives from Warwickshire County Council
- 3 representatives from Stratford on Avon District Council
- 1 representative from Warwickshire Police
- 1 representative from Warwickshire Primary Care Trust
- 1 representative from Stratford Council for Voluntary Services
- 14 representatives from the Partnership Key Groups (i.e. one from each group)
- 2 independent representatives acting as Chair and Vice Chair

25 representatives in total

- 1.3. The Partnership believes strongly that the size of the group needs to be reduced and that its role should take on a more strategic focus. It is intended that the representatives of the resource holding agencies can be supported by a senior manager attending in an observer capacity. It is proposed that the revised Core Group should in future include:

One representative from each of the following resource holding agencies:

- Warwickshire County Council
- Stratford on Avon District Council
- Warwickshire Association of Local Councils
- Warwickshire Police
- Warwickshire Primary Care Trust
- Coventry and Warwickshire Learning and Skills Council
- Stratford Council for Voluntary Services

One representative from each of the following theme groups:

- Children and Young People
- Safer Communities
- Stronger Communities
- Healthier Communities and Older People
- Economic Development and Enterprise
- Environment and Sustainability

Two independent representatives acting as Chair and Vice Chair

Total representatives = 15

- 1.4. A report went to the Stratford on Avon Area Committee on the 22 November 2006 requesting the Area Committee's views on these proposals. A copy of this Report is attached at **Appendix A**. Area Committee was asked to consider the proposed revised structure in light of the work being undertaken on the overarching governance arrangements for the Local Area Agreement. These arrangements include;
- A model involving a County Strategic Partnership Board, county wide themed groups reflecting the LAA themed blocks, 5 District based Local Strategic Partnerships and district level themed partnerships also reflecting the LAA themed blocks
 - A preference for smaller and slimmer partnership boards
 - Partnership boards with representatives of sufficiently senior standing so as to be able to take decisions on behalf of their nominating body
 - Officer attendance in a supporting role for elected members who sit on partnership boards
 - A rationalisation of existing partnerships, sub-groups themed groups etc so as to refocus partnership working around the LAA outcomes agreed by all the partners
- 1.5. The Area Committee was supportive of the revised structural arrangements to the Stratford District Partnership Core Group and resolved that these views

be forwarded to Cabinet. Some members commented that membership of the Core Group raised potential issues of political proportionality which would be worthy of consideration when making decisions on appointments.

- 1.6. The proposal to slim down the Core Group of the Stratford District Local Strategic Partnership would be in line with the emerging LAA governance arrangements that are being worked up.
- 1.7. Cabinet is asked to consider the proposed restructuring to the Stratford District Partnership in light of the views from the Stratford on Avon Area Committee and the overall direction that the Local Area Agreement Governance Task and Finish Group is taking on Local Area Agreement matters.

DAVID CARTER
STRATEGIC DIRECTOR OF PERFORMANCE AND DEVELOPMENT

Shire Hall
Warwick

23 November 2006

Police

Other Bodies/Individuals Stratford District Partnership

FINAL DECISION YES/NO

SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS:

Details to be specified

Further consideration by this Committee

To Council

To Cabinet

To an O & S Committee

To an Area Committee

Further Consultation

Agenda No

Stratford On Avon Area Committee - 22 November 2006.

Restructure of Stratford on Avon Local Strategic Partnership

Report of the Strategic Director Performance & Development

Recommendation

That the Area Committee considers the proposal to revise representation on the Stratford District Local Strategic Partnership Core Group as set out in this report and forwards its views to Cabinet

1. Background

- 1.1 The Stratford on Avon Local Strategic Partnership has been in existence for a number of years. With the advent of the Local Area Agreement and other changes since the Partnership was first established now is an appropriate time to consider the structure of the Partnership to ensure that it is able to address local priorities, drive forward the District Community Plan and support the local delivery of the Warwickshire LAA.
- 1.2 The Partnership currently has a Core Group that is made up of representatives from what is termed resource holders for example Warwickshire County Council, Stratford on Avon District Council, Police, Council for Voluntary Service and Primary Care trust plus a representative from each of the 14 Key Groups. The 14 groups address different local issues and included for example Transport, Housing, Economy, Community Workers, Voluntary Sector etc.
- 1.3 The Partnership has already agreed to focus the work of the existing Key Groups in line with the themes contained within the Local Area Agreement. This has the effect of reducing the number of groups from 14 down to 6 – Safer Communities, Stronger Communities, Health and Older People, Economic Development and Enterprise, Children and Young People, Environment & Sustainability. The additional benefit is that there are strong and very clear links to the LAA.
- 1.4 At its last meeting the Partnership agreed to consult with partners on a draft revised structure for the Core Group. The County Council has now received a letter from the Stratford District Partnership formally requesting the County

Council's view on the proposals. The Core Group is currently made up as follows:

3	representatives from Warwickshire County Council
3	representatives from Stratford on Avon District Council
1	representative from Warwickshire Police
1	representative from Warwickshire Primary Care Trust
1	representative from Stratford Council for Voluntary Services
14	representatives from the Partnership Key Groups (i.e. one from each group)
<u>2</u>	independent representatives acting as Chair and Vice Chair
25	representatives in total

1.5 It is proposed that the revised Core Group would in future include:

One representative from each of the following resource holding agencies:

- Warwickshire County Council
- Stratford on Avon District Council
- Warwickshire Association of Local Councils
- Warwickshire Police
- Warwickshire Primary Care Trust
- Coventry and Warwickshire Learning and Skills Council
- Stratford Council for Voluntary Services

One representative from each of the following theme groups:

- Children and Young People
- Safer Communities
- Stronger Communities
- Healthier Communities and Older People
- Economic Development and Enterprise
- Environment and Sustainability

Two independent representatives acting as Chair and Vice Chair

Total representatives = 15

1.6 The County Council is currently represented on the Core Group by Cllrs Perry and Booth with one vacancy. Under the proposals for the new Core Group there would only be one councillor representing the County Council. It is intended that the representatives of the resource holding agencies would be supported by a senior manager attending in an observer capacity.

1.7 The views of the Area Committee are sought on this proposal. In considering this matter, Members of the Area Committee should be aware that the LAA Governance Task and Finish Group (which includes representatives from the LAA partner agencies) is looking at the overarching governance arrangements for the LAA. The model currently being taken forward would involve 5 district based Local Strategic Partnerships with district level themed partnerships (Key Groups) which reflect the LAA themed blocks.

- 1.8 The Task and Finish Group has also indicated its preference for the governance arrangements to be based on the following guiding principles;
- Smaller and slimmer partnership boards – larger boards tend to be unwieldy to manage and can frustrate partnership progress
 - That those partner agencies who have elected members sitting on the Partnership Board should be able to nominate an officer to attend the meetings in a supporting role
 - Representatives should be of sufficiently senior standing so as to be able to make decisions on behalf of their nominating body
 - That there should be a rationalisation of existing partnerships, sub-groups, themed groups etc so as to refocus partnership working around the LAA outcomes agreed by all the partners
- 1.9 The views of Stratford on Avon Area Committee on the proposals to revise the structure for the Core Group will be reported to Cabinet as part of the consideration being given to the wider LAA governance proposals.
- 1.10 Members should also be aware that the same request is being made of Stratford on Avon District Council who would under the proposal also have their representation on the Core Group reduced to one representative.

DAVID CARTER
Strategic Director
Performance & Development

Shire Hall
Warwick

17 November 2006