

**AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET**

**Name of Committee** Nuneaton and Bedworth Area Committee

**Date of Committee** 15 June 2005

**Report Title** **First Annual Review of Area Working in Nuneaton and Bedworth**

**Summary** The purpose of this report is to highlight some of the key achievements of area working during 2004/05.

**For further information please contact:** Heather Shearer  
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**Would the recommended decision be contrary to the Budget and Policy Framework?** No.

**Background papers** None

**CONSULTATION ALREADY UNDERTAKEN:-**

Details to be specified

- Other Committees  .....
- Local Member(s)  Cllr Longden as Chair
- Other Elected Members  .....
- Cabinet Member  .....
- Chief Executive  David Carter, County Solicitor and Assistant Chief Executive
- Legal  Jane Pollard, Assistant County Solicitor
- Finance  David Preece, Finance Manager
- Other Chief Officers  Martyn Davey, Director of CAMS; John Deegan, Director of PTES
- District Councils  .....
- Health Authority  .....
- Police  .....

Other Bodies/Individuals  .....

**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

### Nuneaton and Bedworth Area Committee - 15 June 2005

#### First Annual Review of Area Working in Nuneaton and Bedworth

#### Report of the County Solicitor and Assistant Chief Executive

##### Recommendation

That the Area Committee notes the report.

### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to highlight some key achievements of area working during 2004/2005 in terms of the Area Committee function, the Area Team and major successes in funding and partnership activities.

### 2. Area Working

- 2.1 The Area Committee has considered over 74 Agenda items at its meetings over the last year. Key items have been considered including the Nuneaton Development Project, which has made a major impact on the successful regeneration of Nuneaton Town Centre and alleviated traffic problems.
- 2.2 Several key Service Plans with an area dimension and focus have been submitted to the Committee including the Area Community Learning Plan, Early Years Childcare Service Plan and the Integrated Risk Management Plan. Additionally, the Area Business Plan performance and activities have been agreed and monitored by area Members. Priorities for funding have been identified from both this internal Plan and for the Council's contribution to the local Community Plan.
- 2.3 The Area Team has also supported local Members in their community leadership role both in terms of their interface with new community groups and in assisting with non-routine and complex constituency issues, which have required partnership activities.
- 2.4 Having created a new area base in Attleborough in March 2004, the Area Team has seen the Area Office become an important facility to both Members and service departments who can utilise both hot-desk and meeting facilities under one roof. Being located next to the Building Sustainable Neighbourhoods Team (PTES) has provided further networking and enabled

sharing of a number of facilities. Attendance at the facilities by other partner agencies and utilisation of these resources for press launch events by other departments has also helped to raise the County Council's area profile. To date, over 350 visitors have used the Area Office for a variety of purposes. Additionally, having both the Area Education Officer and Area Community Safety Manager within the same environment has greatly assisted partnership working at both internal and external levels.

### **3. Working in Partnership**

- 3.1 As well as providing assistance to the Area Committee function and giving support to Members, work within the Area Team has also focussed on involvement in partnership working. This has been through the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) structure, working with partners on the LSP, its' Advisory Group, Community Plan Theme Groups and in a community capacity role with around 120 local voluntary and community groups in the last year alone.
- 3.2 The Area Team, in conjunction with the Area Committee Funding Sub-Group, presented proposals worth over £279,000 in 2004/05 to the Committee for decision. These funds have been administered through the Area Team, who have ensured that relevant publicity has been attributed the Area Committee and local Members.
- 3.3 The Community Development Fund assisted 17 locally-based projects which were funded to a total of £48,700 and the balance of £5,000, provided important set up costs for a small number of groups.
- 3.4 As previously agreed, £30,000 was provided for the Nuneaton and Bedworth Healthy Living Network from the Social Inclusion Fund to assist its important health improvement focus within the area. A further £20,000 was allocated to support the work of the Credit Unions and to assist a partnership of agencies to deliver a targeted Benefits Take-up Campaign.
- 3.5 The Commissioning process for the Well-being Fund finally gained momentum and delivered 9 new project proposals, which were split between delivering the Area Business Plan and the local Community Plan priorities. All projects demonstrated partnership working whether between service departments (Area Business Plan) or external agencies (Community Plan). Some exciting partnership work has been progressed and has included a joint project with Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council to run a funding stream for 14 Community Plan projects. Proposals were decided upon by local people and will be delivered by community groups. This is a good example of how partnership working has developed and been enhanced over the last year.
- 3.6 As previously reported, the Local Strategic Partnership is receiving reports at its quarterly meetings from the Chairs of the Community Plan Themes, in order to monitor progress against targets. It is considered that to date, progress on the three-year Plan is currently on target. The Area Team is involved in a number of Community Plan Theme groups and has assisted the

North Warwickshire Primary Care Trust administer its Local Funds to community groups as part of involvement on the Health, Housing and Welfare Theme Group.

- 3.7 As part of an ongoing commitment to the voluntary and community sector, the Area Teams, in conjunction with area Members, arranged and delivered a successful Voluntary and Community Sector partnership event at Eliot Park Innovation Centre in March 2005, attracting nearly 70 participants who enjoyed a useful networking and promotional opportunity.
- 3.8 The Area Team produced the first edition of Local Lines, a newsletter for local groups aimed at signposting assistance available from the County Council in their locality. A similar newsletter has been issued in all five areas and will be produced twice a year.
- 3.9 In addition, the Area Team has also been actively involved with supporting the Voluntary and Community Sector as a whole. One example of this is a project with Nuneaton and Bedworth Council for Voluntary Services (CVS) to produce a "First Steps" computerised pack for new groups to guide their development and to increase the capacity of infrastructure organisations in the early stages of a group's development. This project will assist all area CVS organisations in their interaction with new organisations and will benefit community groups enormously in their early stages.
- 3.10 Furthermore, the Area Team has also acted as facilitator for the local Community Workers Forum which provides a networking opportunity for community facing workers and to identify opportunities for joint working on cross-cutting agendas.
- 3.11 Local Area Service Mangers (LAMBS Group) also have regular meetings and contribute to the development of the Area Business Plan as well as monitoring its delivery. Additionally through LAMBS, Well-being Fund Commissions are developed, information is exchanged and the Pride in Camp Hill commitments are delivered. Two prime examples of interdepartmental working in this particular arena are the Pride in Camp Hill Action Plan and the joint Commissions agreed from the Well-being Fund. The Area Teams are pivotal in ensuring this process is delivered and for maintaining good contact with other County Council Service teams in the area.

## **4. Summary**

- 4.1 This is the first Annual Report for Area Working, which is designed to highlight some of the activities and achievements. The report does not detail all activities but it is hoped that it will serve as a timely reminder of what key aspects have been delivered at the same time as performance reports are also being considered. It is hoped that the Area Committee will find this information useful.

DAVID CARTER  
County Solicitor and Assistant  
Chief Executive

Shire Hall  
Warwick

17 May 2005