

AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET

Name of Committee	Rugby Area Committee
Date of Committee	16th June 2005
Report Title	First Annual Review of Area Working in the Rugby area
Summary	The purpose of this report is to highlight some of the key achievements of area working in Rugby during 2004-05.
For further information please contact:	Nick Darwen Area Manager Tel: 01788 533576 nickdarwen@warwickshire.gov.uk
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	<input type="checkbox"/>
Local Member(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cllr John Vereker (Area Committee Chair)
Other Elected Members	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cabinet Member	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chief Executive	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> David Carter, County Solicitor and Assistant Chief Executive
Legal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Victoria Gould, Principal Solicitor
Finance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> David Preece, Finance Manager
Other Chief Officers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Noel Hunter, Director of LHTS and Eric Wood, Director of Education
District Councils	<input type="checkbox"/>
Health Authority	<input type="checkbox"/>
Police	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

Rugby Area Committee – 16th June 2005

First Annual Review of Area Working in the Rugby Area

Report of the County Solicitor and Assistant Chief Executive

Recommendation

That the Committee notes the report and appoints four members to its funding subgroup

1. Introduction

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

2. Review of Area Working in Rugby 2004-05

2.1 Area Committee

- 2.1.1 During 2004-05 Rugby Area Committee considered 48 different agenda items. Key items discussed have included: the Rugby Western Relief Road, the A45/A445 Ryton-on-Dunsmore Junction Improvement Scheme, the Future of Health Services in Rugby. Members have called special meetings to discuss the County Council's approach to road safety, and proposals around the redevelopment of the Station Area in Rugby.

- 2.1.2 44 questions were received by the Committee from members of the public on a wide range of subjects. Where possible, responses have been given by the relevant Officer or Department at the meeting itself. Alternatively, a reply has been sent in writing to the questioner and subsequently recorded in the Committee minutes.

- 2.1.3 During 2004-05 there has been a consistent attendance at meetings by members of the public, with approximately 94 people attending over the year.

2.2 Member Support

- 2.2.1 The Area Team has supported local members in their community leadership role both in terms of their interface with local constituents and in assisting with non-routine and complex constituency issues – where the Area Team is able

to act as a link with partner agencies. This has included vandalism on the Somers Road Industrial Estate and nuisance activity at the Bawnmore Road Play Area.

2.2.2 The Area Team supports local members to meet regularly with their constituents through Electoral Divisional Panels (EDPs). EDPs are also an opportunity for parish councillors and others to meet face-to-face with County Council Officers and representatives from partner agencies. During 2004-05, 17 EDPs were held in 10 different divisions.

2.2.3 We have aimed to keep members updated about County Council business in the Rugby area through regular 'Inform' newsletters and Area Manager's Briefings.

2.3 Local Area Management

2.3.1 The Area Team works closely with Departmental Service Managers to produce the Annual Rugby Area Business Plan – which provides a performance management framework for the Area Committee to oversee the County Council's delivery of services in the Rugby Area. Members have been able to use this process to identify priority areas for the use of delegated budgets.

2.3.2 Additionally, several key service plans for the Rugby Area (including the Community Learning Plan, Community Education Development Plan, Early Years Childcare Service Plan, Social Services Medium Term Accommodation Plan, Integrated Risk Management Plan) have been submitted to Area Committee.

2.3.3 The Area Team runs a regular Rugby Area Managers Team Meeting through which Local County Council Service Area Managers are able to exchange information, and oversee the development and delivery of the Area Business Plan.

2.4 Partnership Working

2.4.1 The Area Team leads the County Council's input into partnership working in the Rugby area, and co-ordinates the running of the Local Strategic Partnership (Rugby Forward). The County Council has requested that Rugby Borough Council also helps with this, and the Borough Council is currently reviewing its position.

2.4.2 The Area Team has written a Business Plan for the LSP and has attempted to introduce a performance management framework. The LSP Board now receives a presentation at each of its bi-monthly meetings from each Theme Group in turn as an update of progress against the Community Plan targets.

2.4.3 Area Team members attend a number of the Rugby Forward Theme Groups, and in particular facilitates the Community Participation Theme Group alongside the CVS. The Area Team has taken the lead on drawing up multi-agency strategies to guide the work of these theme groups, and is working with partners to develop a more co-ordinated approach to meeting the needs

of disadvantaged neighbourhoods, rural communities, children & young people, older people, disabled people, and black & minority ethnic communities.

- 2.4.4 A particular focus of the Area Team's work has been to support partnership working to improve Rugby's most deprived neighbourhoods. The LSP aims to ensure that in future years none of Rugby's neighbourhoods feature in the bottom 30% of the Index of Multiple Deprivation. The Area Team has been supporting work in identified neighbourhoods (notably Brownsover South, New Bilton / Newbold and Benn) over the last year and is currently working to establish a partnership group to ensure that resources are used strategically across these and other neighbourhoods.

2.5 Liaison & Communication

- 2.5.3 The Area Team has been proactive in developing lines of communication between the Area Committee and local community interests.
- 2.5.4 Rugby Area Committee met with the Local Association of Parish Councils in June 2004, with discussion including availability of school places, speed limits and rural transport.
- 2.5.5 The Area Team produced the first edition of their Local Lines newsletter – a publication aimed at keeping Parish Councils informed of County Council activity in the rural areas of Rugby. A similar newsletter has been produced in all five areas of the county and will be produced twice a year.
- 2.5.6 The Area Team has worked in partnership with the Rugby Racial Equality Council to open up the lines of communication between the County Council and local Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) Communities in Rugby through the BME Consultative Forum. The Area Team has also sought to encourage County Council departments to engage with the Youth Council & the Disability Forum, and is working to set up a local Older People's Network.

2.6 Supporting the Voluntary & Community Sector

- 2.6.3 The Community Partnership Officer oversees the County Council's relationship with the voluntary and community sector in Rugby. Regular communication with the local Council for Voluntary Service (CVS) has ensured appropriate support is offered to the organisations within the sector. Attendance at the local Voluntary and Community Sector Forum has reinforced this relationship.
- 2.6.4 The Area Team has been instrumental in the development of the Rugby Funders' Forum – bringing together local organisations that provide funding to voluntary and community group to better coordinate funds that are allocated locally.
- 2.6.5 The Area Team has continued to facilitate the Rugby Community Workers Forum to provide a networking opportunity for community facing workers and to identify opportunities for joint working on cross-cutting agendas.

2.7 Funding

- 2.7.3 Area Committee approved projects worth £139,500 from its delegated budgets. These funds are administered by the Area Team and provide a significant resource to enhance the wellbeing of local communities within the Rugby area.
- 2.7.2 The Area Team has established a funding sub-group to enable Area Committee to take a more strategic interest in the use of these budgets.
- 2.7.3 The Community Development Fund assisted 7 locally-based projects.
- 2.7.4 The Social Inclusion Fund has supported (for the second year) a Social Enterprise Development Worker for the Rugby Area and a Neighbourhood Health Development Worker for Benn Ward. In March, Area Committee approved a further £17,000 to support the “Enabling Active Communities” project developed by the Rugby Area Team including a Community Activists Development Programme, the development of an Older People’s Network, and a new Disability website.
- 2.7.5 The new commissioning process for the Wellbeing Fund resulted in 3 new projects being developed to meet priorities set by the Area Committee. Rugby Relate were commissioned to undertake the Time for You – Youth Counselling Project. Warwickshire Rural Community Council were commissioned to undertake two pieces of work (1) to examine the cause of low business support take-up in rural areas, and (2) to develop a partnership plan for the more co-ordinated delivery of services in rural areas.

3. Summary

- 3.1 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

18 May 2005