

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

Stratford-on-Avon Area Committee - 22 June 2005

First Annual Review of Area Working in Stratford-on-Avon

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 45 Agenda items at its meetings over the last year. Key items have been considered including the introduction of Decriminalisation of Car parking in Stratford on Avon and the subsequent review, Avon Navigation, the emerging Crime and Disorder Strategy and Affordable Housing.
- 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 a range of constituency issues, which have required partnership activities.

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 Stratford

District Partnership, the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) for Stratford-on Avon, working with partners on the LSP, its' Core Group, Support Group, Partnership Key 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 £110,000 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 to the Area Committee and local Members.
- 3.3 The Community Development Fund provided funding for 8 locally-based projects which were funded to a total of £32,550. One project has subsequently declined to take up their offer of grant.
- 3.4 As previously agreed, £15,000 was provided for ILEAP, £10,000 for the Village Liaison Project and £5,000 for the Older Peoples Outreach Project from the Social Inclusion Fund. A further £7,705 was allocated to the PATCHES project to help families with young children on low income improve child home safety and £20,000 for Back & 4th Transport project.
- 3.5 The Commissioning process for the Well being Fund is gaining momentum, particularly since the establishment of the Area Committee Funding sub group. Funding was agreed for two commissions, one submitted by a service department – Fire and Rescue for Safe to Let and one by an external agency, Stratford on Avon Council for Voluntary Service for PQASSO. A number of other potential commissions are in the process of being developed.
- 3.6 The Stratford District Partnership has agreed the Community Plan for the district covering the period 2004 – 2014. A monitoring process has been agreed so that the partnership will be able to monitor the progress being made against agreed targets. The Area Team is involved in a number of Community Plan Key Groups including the Community Workers, Voluntary Sector, Health Improvement and Well being, Community Learning Partnership, Rural Transport and Young Peoples Key Group.
- 3.7 The Area Team produced the first edition of Local Lines, a newsletter for Parish Councils aimed at highlighting the activities of, and assistance available from, the County Council within the District. A similar newsletter has been developed for all five areas of the County and will be produced twice a year.
- 3.9 To help local Community and Voluntary Groups within the District with funding issues the Area Team organised a funding surgery. The surgery included representatives from the Heart of England Community Foundation and the funding officer from Warwick CVS, who works across South Warwickshire. The surgery enabled a number of local groups to receive detailed one to one advice and support and was very well received by those groups who attended. It is intended to run at least one similar surgery during 2005/06.

- 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 from both public agencies and the community and voluntary sector to identify opportunities for joint working on cross-cutting agendas.
- 3.11 Local Area Service Mangers also have begun to hold regular meetings to ensure Area Business Plan progress is delivered, Well being Fund Commissions are developed and that information is exchanged. 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

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17 May 2005