

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**Report**

Committee:	Policy and Resources Select Committee
Date:	31 October 2013
Title:	Partnership Working - Working with Communities
Reference:	5340
Report From:	Chief Executive

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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. This paper outlines the tangible work that will drive the Council forward in developing and implementing an improved approach to enabling and working with Communities. Good progress has already been made in establishing a workstream within the Transformation to 2015 programme and towards achieving specific objectives in particular geographical areas. The work does not have a specified financial target but has the potential to hold the key to lasting service transformation which in turn will complement (or indeed drive) cost reduction strategies.

2. Contextual Information

2.1. For some time, the County Council has recognised the need to transform the way it works in communities. Specifically this means having an improved understanding of the Council's offer and presence in specific locations, harnessing the ability of communities to be more self reliant and organising Council and other services in a more collaborative and coherent way. Doing this will improve outcomes for vulnerable residents, make it easier for people to access public services, put the customer first, encourage personal responsibility and cost the Council less.

2.2. Two pilot areas have been identified to work through what the challenges and opportunities in specific geographical locations are: Havant (Leigh Park and Wecock Farm) and Test Valley (Andover). A further pilot will consider the opportunities to build and capitalise on community resilience in support of the Council's review of Domiciliary Care services.

3. Actions being undertaken

3.1. **Joint work with Havant Borough Council.** Good progress has already been made in Havant, led by the Assistant Director for Communities working jointly with officers from Havant Borough Council.

3.2. The work in Havant is planning to:

- a) Understand the community development capacity operating in the area to identify duplication and overlap and streamline services on offer. This will include an event on 6 November, which will bring together key relevant public and voluntary sector partners in the locality to consider the challenges and opportunities.
- b) Understand the total spend and public service offer of both Councils' in the area, beginning with grant spend. This will be extended to other public service organisations as appropriate.
- c) Link with the Supporting Troubled Families programme to ensure it considers the role of communities alongside families and individuals.
- d) Ensure plans for the redevelopment of public service facilities in Havant include harnessing community capacity and reflect the local community's need for specific services.

3.3. **Joint work with Test Valley Borough Council.** As well as tackling the tasks outlined above in the Havant work, this project will be working with colleagues in Property Services on options for potential co-location of public services in Andover.

3.4. The work will support option appraisals and proposals by ensuring that they are informed by the understanding and full involvement of the wider local community in shaping and developing proposals for the area. Community involvement is key to the optimal redesign of the public service offer in Andover.

3.5. Test Valley Borough Council is also exploring with the Department for Communities and Local Government an application for a complementary Neighbourhood Community Budget pilot and the County Council will be liaising to understand how it can support and work with the Borough Council on any such scheme.

3.6. **Communities Approach to Domiciliary Care.** This work will build on planned work to transform the commissioning of domiciliary care. This will be done by testing proposals early on in a specific geographic area, likely to be in the North of the County. The work will involve looking for ways to shape the market so that providers offer more person-centred care which better links with the capacity of local communities and the voluntary sector.

3.7. In practice, this means a market where domiciliary care providers work with local groups to make sure that people receive the care they need and also have access to services which improve their wellbeing and quality of life such as shopping and good neighbour schemes.

4. Wider learning and support

- 4.1. **Public Service Transformation Network.** Hampshire was selected to join the network alongside eight other areas from across the country. The Network was launched by the Government to spread learning from the four whole-place community budget pilots.
- 4.2. The County Council will use its membership of the Network to bring in additional external expertise and challenge to some of the work outlined above. Membership of the network will also give the Council a greater ability to include Central Government services such as those provided by the Department for Work and Pensions and the Department of Health.
- 4.3. **LGA Peer Challenge.** A Peer Challenge will take place in January 2014 which will focus on the Council's approach to communities. The Peer Challenge will support and complement the work outlined above.

5. Conclusions

- 5.1. In the current economic climate, it will be increasingly important to have an improved understanding of the Council's offer and presence in specific locations, to better harness the ability of communities to be more self reliant and to organise Council and other services in a more collaborative and coherent way in order to improve outcomes for vulnerable residents, make it easier for people to access public services, put the customer first, encourage personal responsibility and, ultimately, cost the Council less.
- 5.2. The work is still in the early stages, but the willingness and enthusiasm of partners is encouraging and the Council's participation in the Public Sector Transformation Network will provide additional resources to help develop the approach.

CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:

Links to the Corporate Strategy

Hampshire safer and more secure for all:	yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Maximising well-being:	yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Enhancing our quality of place:	yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents

The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)

Document

Location

None

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:

1. Equalities Impact Assessment:

1.1. A full Equalities impact assessment will be required as part of this work.

2. Impact on Crime and Disorder:

2.1. The work will involve working with colleagues in law enforcement and community safety to understand the opportunities and challenges associated with crime and disorder services in the relevant areas.

3. Climate Change:

a) How does what is being proposed impact on our carbon footprint / energy consumption?

This work will include consideration of, and potential rationalisation of the Council's occupation and usage of buildings in the relevant areas and the deployment of staff.

b) How does what is being proposed consider the need to adapt to climate change, and be resilient to its longer term impacts?

See above.