



AGENDA ITEM NO. 11

HENBURY AND SOUTHMEAD NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP

12th March 2013

Report of: Keith Houghton – Area Co-ordinator,
Neighbourhoods and Communities

Title: Devolved Services Report

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RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Neighbourhood Partnership:

1. Considers the questions posed and reports its responses back to contribute to the Neighbourhood Partnership Review process

1: Traffic and Transport Devolved Budget Work Programmes – progress reports

- 1.1 Neighbourhood Partnerships (NPs) were set up with the aim of bringing decision-making and influence closer to communities, and have been active in their current form since February 2010.
- 1.2 Although there has been a variety of feedback in the last three years, there has not yet been a full review of NPs.

The Mayor is keen to ensure that the NP structures and activities are as directly accountable to local residents and communities as possible and deliver as much influence into the neighbourhoods as possible. This has presented a good opportunity to review NPs to ensure that they are fit for purpose and able to deliver effective local governance moving forwards.

- 1.3** The Neighbourhood Partnership is asked, as part of the Neighbourhood Partnership Review process, to consider the following questions at its meeting on 12th March and report back its thoughts.
- 1.4 What should be the purpose of the NP?**
- What do you think should be devolved and influenced by the NPs?
 - What else should the NP do?
- 1.5 Can we improve the decision making process?**
Legal parameters about decision-making are as follows:
- In order to be lawful, elected councillors must make the final decisions about devolved budgets
 - Influence on services and priority setting is not an executive function and therefore decisions could be made by all members of the NP
- 1.6 What is the best meetings structure (NP / forums / subgroups / working groups)?**
- If you were designing the other meetings and had 20 facilitated meetings per year, how would you structure these (i.e. how many forums, how many subgroups etc). Please note the budget remains the same for this work so numbers of meetings can't increase.
- 1.7 How can we improve outreach work, community engagement and communication, and get more people involved in decision-making?**
- 1.8 Current good practice in the NP – what works well for you?**
- 1.9 What do we need to do differently?**