

**BRISTOL CITY COUNCIL**

**Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Commission**

**11<sup>th</sup> April 2016**

**Report of:** Strategic Director, Neighbourhoods

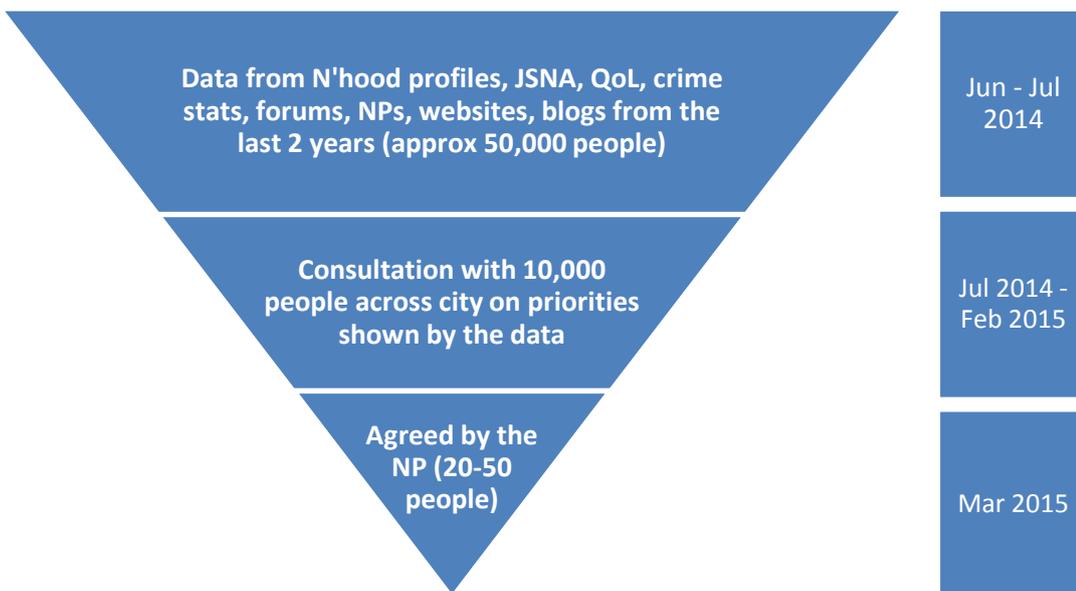
**Title:** Update on Neighbourhood Partnership Plans – citywide priorities

**Ward:** All

**Officer Presenting Report:** Di Robinson / Gemma Dando

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**Background /context – how were the plans formed?**



**1. The plans include:**

- i. Local priorities that people are doing for themselves independent of BCC
- ii. Priorities that are within the remit of the NPs and they can get on with
- iii. Priorities that are cross cutting / affect more than one NP and require coordinated work across the NPs and the Council and/or other partners

The focus of this update report is on the priorities that are cross cutting and affect more than one NP, with a summary and update on progress for each of the priorities.

**2. We identified 8 different cross cutting priorities within the plans which are as follows:**

- Environment – litter, graffiti, fly tip, ASB, nuisance parking
- Parks

- Community buildings and assets
- Employment
- Facilities & activities for young people
- Transport
- Health
- Community cohesion

3. This report includes an overview the priority areas under these themes and the work currently in progress. The neighbourhood plans have given the council a coherent and clear narrative about neighbourhood priorities, which is easily understood and digestible by both colleagues and partners. This has enabled neighbourhood priorities to be adopted by programmes and services which are delivering against some of the neighbourhood priority areas, and the neighbourhood management team have been actively seeking opportunities for joint working. Some priorities have had more progress than others, and often this has depended on timing of pieces of work that are already happening, and finding the ideal opportunity for building in neighbourhood plan priorities.

#### **A. Parks**

All of the Neighbourhood Partnerships have parks as a priority. The two main areas of work requested by the Neighbourhood Partnerships are as follows:

- Develop joined-up approach for enhancing and improving parks
- Maximising investment and capacity building to deliver sustainable improvement projects

#### Progress to date

- Review and improvements made to delivery of parks projects, including progressing outstanding projects, delivering available investment in annual budget, and programming in future investment. Lists of active and aspirational projects are available to all NPs.
- Priorities from NP plans are being used every time parks investment is discussed. Parks and Play fund 2015/16 was based on the content of NP plans and the same will happen in 2016/17. Access budget is also using information from NP plans to determine priorities.
- Public meeting took place about how to collectively make decisions, jointly hosted by the Parks Forum and the council, with many NP reps in attendance. This will be a regular thing, and will sometimes be done alongside the parks forum and sometimes separately. The purpose will be to ensure that the council is working with local people to make investment decisions.
- Delivery of parks investment is being reviewed to streamline and accelerate timescales, and to ensure that the design work that NPs do can directly feed into the way that investment is delivered. This will be launched in summer 2016.
- NPs are sharing information about independent funding, and the parks department are using this learning to improve BCC processes so that delivery of externally funded projects in BCC parks is as smooth and straightforward as possible.
- The parks and green space strategy is being updated so that the maps reflect the new investment over the last 10 years and so that it can continue to be used as a guide for NPs.
- Investigations are being started on a “traffic choices” app for parks so that more information is available to neighbourhoods on costs and progress of investment schemes.

## **B. Environment (litter, graffiti, fly tip, ASB, nuisance parking)**

13 of the NPs have the environment as a priority. The main areas of work requested by NPs are as follows:

- Some parts of Bristol suffer from problems with litter, overflowing bins, taking in of emptied bins, fly tipping, and sex and drugs litter. Acknowledging the efforts that have been made to address these using existing capacity and methods, NPs are keen to look at different ways of approaching the issues, such as identified within the new Waste Strategy.
- Stretches of inner city Bristol, as well as numerous other areas, are suffering from an epidemic of graffiti tagging. The size of the problem is such that BCC is unable to systematically address this problem with its existing policy or graffiti removal service, and fully support the enforcement efforts of the police which is command led.
- Dog fouling of footways, parks and green spaces is a problem in significant parts of Bristol. Reductions in the dog warden service mean that there is less capacity to address this citywide issue.
- Levels of crime and antisocial behaviour continue to be a problem in a number of communities in Bristol.
- Problem or nuisance parking outside of schools, on grass verges, inconsiderate parking on narrow streets and street corners.

### Progress to date

- The way that enforcement is being undertaken is dramatically changing. A more targeted approach has been taken, using hotspots identified in NP plans as well as council data, and this has resulted in more formal enforcement action being taken than ever recorded before in Bristol on environmental issues. In total, over 700 formal notices have been issued, and over 200 fixed penalty notices have been given out, as well as around 20 prosecutions currently being in progress. Data breakdowns are available monthly to councillors, and the reporting process is being defined and distributed to councillors.
- The enforcement teams tackling many of the named issues above are being redesigned so that officers will tackle multiple street scene issues rather than working in individual teams.
- Commercial bins: The enforcement team have organised operations in key areas to address the commercial bins on streets issue, including 136 Section 47 Notices (letting businesses know their responsibilities and what our response will be if they don't comply) issued and 28 Fixed Penalty Notices (when they have not complied).
- Fly tipping and litter hotspots are currently being agreed with waste/enforcement and NP teams planned targeted activity in the new financial year, and this will be accompanied by targeted education campaigns that will be citywide and also tailored to specific offences and specific audiences.
- Worked with Police to identify and prosecute prolific graffiti taggers in Bristol. 22 taggers have been arrested and put through the criminal justice system. Last two have seen BCC awarded £1300 in damages and a 17 month prison sentence.
- Paper produced in conjunction with Assistant Mayor Daniella Radice which includes basis of new graffiti policy and graffiti management project. Discussions with partners at Network rail, highways, destination Bristol, Bristol Waste Contract and some graffiti artists. Agreements for joint working in place.

## **C. Jobs and Skills**

Half of the Neighbourhood Partnership Plans across Bristol identified lack of employment and skills as an issue for their partnership area. The priorities for these areas were:

- Increase opportunities in local job markets and major projects

- Reduce worklessness (Inc. youth worklessness) in areas which suffer from deprivation
- Improve skill levels in areas where there are low skill levels and poor aspiration.

Progress to date:

- 24/1/16 Representatives from North, South and East/Central Jobs and skills sector and the Neighbourhood Teams attended an event where we looked at the possibility of 3 area work zone (South, Central/East and North Bristol). It became apparent that each of the 3 areas has different challenges and that a different model would be necessary for each of the three areas. There is an opportunity for funds linked to the jobs and skills agenda to be strategically placed via BCC to avoid duplication and ensure an even spread of services based on need.
- City wide jobs fayre programme agreed
- **South:** 10/2/16 Meeting to investigate HMRC staff to volunteer with community members on a 1:1 ratio improving their ability to access the internet. Look to pilot 2 sessions in May 16 in local libraries. Meeting arranged with Library volunteer coordinator to progress idea.
- **North:** 10/3/16 provider to discuss the concept and get agreement for providers across the North to work together to develop a North Model. Each work Zone area has been offered 2 places on the project board (paid) nominations received and a vote to agree who to send pending. A mapping exercise also taking place
- **East Central:**
  - Pop up job shops are now operating in 6 locations
  - Local mosques have agreed to participate in building economic activity.
  - Barton Hill Settlement secured funding from NEF to produce a Community Economic Development Plan which will cover much of the NP area;
  - One of our partner organisation the Society have set aside £750 to develop ideas around connecting people to local employment on major schemes such as the Bristol Arena;

## D. Young People

All Neighbourhood Partnership Plans across Bristol identified the following two priorities relating to young people:

- To increase and join up activities and facilities for children and young people (better coordinate what is currently happening\ exists, identify and fill gaps to service all children and young people across the city and communicate to residents)
- To engage young people's voices in their neighbourhoods (to increase young people's input and influence over local and citywide decision making)

Progress to date:

- Neighbourhood Partnerships have tried different ways to tackle these issues e.g Horfield and Lockleaze NP have allocated £5000 to a Young People's Grant Panel for them to manage and award funding to young people. Various Neighbourhood Partnerships have invited members of the Youth Council to attend (usually just part) of their meetings to develop a mutual understanding of how each party functions. Neighbourhoods are also trialling the "You Decide" app which may be a tool to help Young People get involved in local decision making.
- 24<sup>th</sup> October – Workshop on Young People's involvement in Local Decision Making was held at the City-wide Neighbourhood Partnership event. This suggested the following actions:
  - NPs to invite Youth Councillors to their NP meetings, however there is not one per NP area – there is also no youth working staff support to facilitate this
  - Link from NP webpages to Youth Council and vice versa
  - Hold a volunteering event to get more Young People to take up volunteering.

- Work to influence future contracts and service providers to offer a more joined up approach to enabling a youth voice.
- Develop and pilot an approach for area youth forums
- 16/12/15 – meeting between Bristol Youth Links and Neighbourhoods. This discussed ideas and best practise and it was agreed to involve the service providers in this discussion at the next BYL provider meeting.
- 17/3/16 – BYL providers meeting. Providers don't see participation as an important part of their work, Creative Network have agreed to explore the youth grant pot idea others are interested but do not have the means to administrate/deliver. One suggestion was for youth worker apprentices for each NP area – managed by the BYL providers - funding this would be an issue, perhaps lottery funding?
- 5/4/16 – meeting with police commission to discuss transferring the Transformers Youth grant to the NPs.

## E. Health

All NPs have clear health related issues embedded within their plans.

- Domestic violence is an issue in all areas of the city, but is under-reported in many areas. (10NPs)
- Cycling and walking increasingly recognised for their health benefits. Bristol has highest number of cyclists in UK but there is low satisfaction with facilities for safe cycling (10NPs)
- Family support is lacking in many areas of the city, particularly for vulnerable families. Need for more sport, leisure and healthy eating provision (8NPs)
- Drugs and Alcohol misuses (9NPs)
- Isolation (including older people) is an issue in every neighbourhood of Bristol. Help needed to identify those affected. Not enough service or community provision to help them. (10NPs)

### Progress to date

- Early meetings have been held with Public Health, integrating social care officers the NHS and Bristol Aging Better. These officers are excited by the possibilities that NPs can offer as they have a clear link in to their local communities (something health teams often struggle with). More work needs to be done, and meetings and planning events are being arranged to progress this. It is clear that there is significant scope for developing processes that bring together issues such as social isolation, healthy activities, advice, and access to good food. NPs are doing some of this (without accessing dedicated support), and could clearly do a lot more with support.

## F. Community Resources

11 of the NPs have prioritised community buildings and community infrastructure as a priority

- Communities in NP areas have aspirations to develop their neighbourhood assets– communities want to improve their resources and are looking to develop 'Hub' models of co-delivery in partnership with BCC and other services
- BCC owns properties and is looking to deliver services more efficiently and develop more housing
- Communities want to engage with the City Council to explore how BCC assets could be sold, merged or combined and connected into community's plans for better resources to co-produce 'more successful places' – but often find this difficult and complicated
- Communities increasing looking to use the CAT process to take on BCC assets but NPs identify the need for more support to help them produce effective business plans and after the CAT transfer to support successful management of facilities

- NPs identify poor access facilities and need for improved quality in a number of community facilities

#### Progress to date

- This area of NP priority has been raised at a strategic level in the council, and directors are aware of the content of the NP plans and the aspirations of communities. Further work is needed to determine how this may be progressed.

### **G. Traffic and Transport**

All NPs have chosen traffic and transport as a priority area. Officers have been compiling this information into priority areas, which are emerging as follows:

- Request for more influence/earlier notification of strategic highways design and delivery, including citywide and area wide decisions
- Better delivery of NP schemes and better sharing of information and planning
- Provide opportunities for citizens to influence the bus services
- Active Travel – Walking/Cycling
- Parking on pavements

### **H. Cohesion and Hate Crime**

**All** NPs have chosen elements of community cohesion as priorities, with some also prioritising hate crime. Priorities include:

- Long standing and often complex issues and relationships that span neighbourhoods and different protected characteristics
- Domestic Abuse, Hate Incidents and Community Cohesion have been identified as key priorities by nine NPs
- The presence of domestic abuse and hate incidents are viewed as the ‘tip of the iceberg’, since many victims often choose not to report incidents for fear of reprisal or a lack of belief in the criminal justice system to deal with the incident/crime.
- A lack of community cohesion has an adverse impact on agencies and NP partners to deliver wider NP Plan objectives and aspirations
- A lack of leadership and shared understanding of the issues, terminology and more innovative interventions continues to hamper progress in tackling these issues.

#### Progress to date

- Hate crime project in South Bristol is piloting new partnership approaches to tackling longstanding community tensions
- Community development team is using the NP plan information about cohesion to target their work in particular areas, and will provide feedback for NPs on progress.