



AGENDA ITEM NO. 10

Overview & Scrutiny Management Board 11th July 2013

Title: Neighbourhood Partnership Review

Report of: Gemma Dando, Neighbourhood Partnerships and
Neighbourhood Working Service Manager

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. To note the Mayor George Ferguson's statement about the future for NPs.
2. To note and comment on the outcomes of the consultation and the proposals for the next stages of the NP review

Statement from Mayor George Ferguson

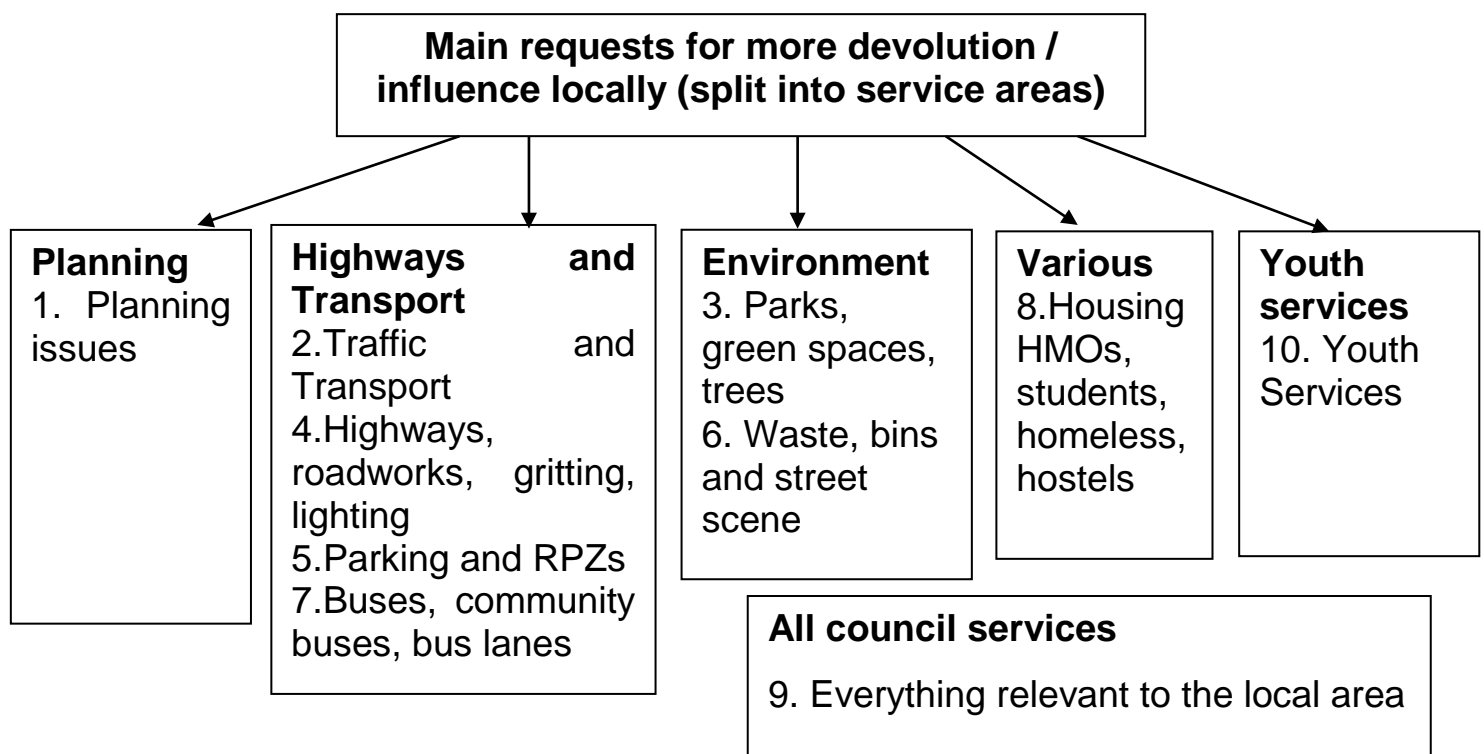
"Neighbourhoods Partnerships are integral to my thinking about the future of civic action and the delivery of public services across the city. I am committed to placing ward councillors and local communities at the heart of how we do business in our neighbourhoods, with reference to both our own services and in response to local priorities and issues. I am delighted that so many people have taken part in this review, both people currently involved and those we want to be involved, and I am committed to using this information to help shape NPs in the future"

Outcomes of the NP review consultation

1. The NP review consultation took place between 1st February and 1st April. 3247 people responded to the survey, and around 750 people provided responses through citywide, areawide and local meetings and through their NPs. Of the respondents to the survey, about two thirds had heard of NPs but only a third had taken part in local meetings.
2. Some of the positive comments that came out of the review were that people supported local decision making through Neighbourhood

Partnerships and there was positive feedback about the way that partnerships act as a pivotal place for communities, councilors and services to come together.

3. The diagram in appendix A summarises the main areas for improvement that were highlighted through the NP review. It is clear from the summary of the consultation in appendix A that there are three main areas that people would like to see improvements to
 - a) The way that the NPs work / are run
 - b) Council and other services engagement and commitment to NPs
 - c) Communications and outreach
4. The survey identified the following as the main council services that people would like more influence over (the numbers show the order in which they were ranked):



NP review – what happens next?

Council and other services engagement and commitment to NPs

5. There is a lot of change taking place within the council at this time, including further reductions to the budget over the next 3 years. These changes will have an impact on what services the Council continues to provide in the future. This is being planned out over the summer with proposals for a 3 year budget due to be published for consultation from September 2013 onwards. Realistically we need to ensure that we have time to consider how any new work we embark on with NPs is deliverable and achievable in this context. This is particularly relevant

for issues around the potential for further devolution and influence over council services and budgets.

6. In summary, this means that detailed work on future devolution and influence, and the council's corporate commitment to NPs, will start once the three year budget has been published in September 2013. We are committed to ensuring that there is a role for elected members and NP members in this work and this will be scoped out over the summer.

The way that NPs work and communications and outreach

7. For improvements to the way that NPs are run and improvements to communications and outreach, work will start this summer and be supported by the NP team. The main areas are:
 - a) Individual NPs setting their own agendas, meetings, planning their work, other individual NP improvements supported by their ACs. This can be scheduled by the NPs and can start at any time.
 - b) Bringing councillors, NP resident members and officers together from across the city to work on NP improvements – best practice sharing, NP terms of reference, communications, improving current devolution and practices –the intention is to start this in July after the NP meetings and dates.
8. A draft schedule of work is being mapped out and will be taken to Neighbourhood Partnerships across the city and provided on the website www.myneighbourhoodbristol.com,

APPENDICES

Appendix A - Summary of main areas for improvement highlighted through the NP review

Appendix B - Draft Neighbourhood Partnership Review Workshop Meeting Plan

Appendix C - Headlines statistics from neighbourhood partnerships

NP review findings - what people told us

APPENDIX A

Running the NPs



Purpose

- Need a clear, defined purpose for NPs
- All stakeholders need to fully support purpose of NPs

Standards

- Clearer roles and responsibilities needed
- Decision making standards needed - including how to ensure evidence is used to make decisions
- Membership and democratic accountability needs defining
- Standards needed for all people (Cllrs, officers, public, partners)

Governance

- Clarity on who makes which decisions is needed
- Terms of ref need reviewing for amendments to achieve review outcomes

Ongoing development

- Need citywide NP events/info sharing (themed)
- Need to come together for continuous improvements
- Need opportunities to input into citywide initiatives (interacting with citywide groups)

Corporate commitment

- Need clear corporate commitment from council and other organisations that NPs are a priority
- More influence and devolution needed on the things that are important to neighbourhoods

Meetings

- NPs should have more say in meeting structures, agendas, for more local flavour
Need to be flexible
- Better interaction between meetings needed
- Less bureaucracy, less paperwork

Processes and delivery

- Need clear processes to enable NPs to influence key things in n'hoods
- Need to be able to deliver neighbourhood priorities effectively – and to be clear about timescales and resources.
- Need to be better at updating progress and keeping people informed

Outreach and engagement

- Need better engagement with wider community
- Need to understand their communities and find ways of engaging that work locally
- Engagement needs to be part of NP processes and feed into and out of meetings
- Need a better online presence
- Need to be better at promoting success

Council / Partner input

Comms, outreach

Draft Neighbourhood Partnership Review Workshop Meeting Plan

Neighbourhood Partnership Review Workshops	Workshop Subject
Week beginning 29 July 2013	Improving Neighbourhood Partnership Meetings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Covering NP Purpose and Aims • NP Roles and Responsibilities • NP Terms of Reference • NP Member Training
Week beginning 2 September 2013	Improving Community Engagement and Communication <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Engagement and Consultation • Engaging with businesses, schools, places of worship, and the voluntary sector • Engaging with Equalities Communities • Improvements to NP Communications
Week beginning 14 th October 2013	European Local Democracy Week –NP event / conference / best practice sharing / exhibition
From October / November 2013	Start work on full Neighbourhood Partnership Review Recommendations including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • potential future devolution and influence • more responsive local services • corporate and formal status of Neighbourhood Partnerships with BCC • developing robust partnerships with other local services

Headlines stats from NPs

2012-13

- 1483 community engagement activities including
 - 58 NP meetings
 - 140 Neighbourhood Forums
 - 204 subgroup meetings
 - 1081 other engagement activities/events
- 22,339 residents involved(direct interactions with the NP team)
 - Approx. 5% of population
- £2.95 million of devolved funding allocated at NP meetings
 - Highways
 - S106
 - Wellbeing
 - Clean and Green
- 457 local decisions made at NP meetings
 - Devolved funding
 - Influence on services
 - Prioritising local issues
- 3971 people took part in NP review
 - 3247 responses to NP review survey
 - 724 people took part in face-to-face feedback (through city events and local events)