



## AGENDA ITEM NO. 6

### FILWOOD, KNOWLE AND WINDMILL HILL NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP

Wednesday, 8 March 2017

**Title:** Future arrangements for local decision making

**Report author:** Andrew McLean – Neighbourhood Partnership Coordinator

#### RECOMMENDATION

1. That the Partnership notes the content of the report

#### Background

Bristol City Council's Full Council meeting on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> February agreed a one year budget that included a series of financial savings across the City Council. These savings included an element relating to the management of Neighbourhood Partnerships.

The Neighbourhood Partnerships financial savings agreed by Full Council were:  
2017/18 - £500,000  
18/19 - No savings  
2019/20 - £562,000

As a precursor to the savings and more detailed information on the City Council's financial position, the following measures were put in place from December 2016:

- A spending freeze on the **current** Wellbeing Fund
- A spending freeze on the Clean and Green Fund
- A spending freeze on local Highways schemes (not S106/CIL funded schemes)
- Removal of funding for a series of community based publications – The Knowledge Newsletter
- Staffing savings across the Neighbourhood Management Service

## **Interim arrangements**

Over the coming months all Neighbourhood Partnerships will be exploring if there is a way of sustaining and may be even building on the experiences, knowledge and community action throughout the life of their respective Partnerships.

On Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2017 a city wide event hosted by the organisation Locality, brought together representatives from all fourteen Partnerships along with representatives from the voluntary and community sector. The event highlighted different models for local decision making and greater neighbourhood participation in the design and delivery of local statutory services.

Further work and conversations will:

- a) Use the scheduled NP or forum meetings to explore ideas, make links with groups and activists who may not be involved at present and learn from others about what they do.
- b) Develop a full picture of the assets and resources locally and working out if there's scope to make better use of them.
- c) Identify the things that are most important for your area.
- d) Understand the potential risks.
- e) Organise networking event/s to exchange ideas & learn from each other.
- f) Explore the need for advice on organisational governance – do you need a constitution? What sort of organisation would work for you?
- g) Draw up a plan for what needs to happen to get you to where you want to be.
- h) Identify what help and support you need to get there (this might be help with room hire costs for a given period, access to fundraising advice or having the right connection with the city council).

All Neighbourhood Partnership Coordinators have been asked to prepare a report that highlights the answers and responses to the above points. Bristol City Council will use the collated reports to help steer development of more long term decision making structures.

## **Devolved budgets**

Work is taking place within the Council to develop a process to help make the best use of the city's existing Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), Section 106 (S106) and a reduced Wellbeing fund.

## **Questions for the Partnership?**

1. Is there a need for residents, groups, elected councillors and statutory/voluntary service providers to meet and work in partnership at a local (or ward level)?
2. Is there a desire for the current Neighbourhood Partnership to continue across all three wards?
3. Can the current Partnership or a new model/s be self-sufficient? For example, cover meeting room costs, manage publicity etc?