

Cabinet Report / Key Decision **Date: 4th Dec**

Title: Transformation of Neighbourhood Working	
Ward: City wide	Cabinet lead: Asher Craig
Author: Penny Germon	Job title: Head of NM Service (interim)

Revenue Cost: £ 309k	Source of Revenue Funding: <i>Neighbourhood Management Service</i>
Capital Cost: £	Source of Capital Funding: <i>e.g. grant/ prudential borrowing etc.</i>
One off <input type="checkbox"/>	Saving <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Ongoing <input type="checkbox"/>	Income generation <input type="checkbox"/>
Finance narrative: These proposals are about finding ways to work with local communities to save a total revenue saving of £1.062m (£500k 2017/18 and £562k 2019/20) leaving £309k p.a. in 2019/20. These savings are before accounting for any severance costs, the severance costs arising from any changes to staff numbers in delivering this saving are expected to be met from corporate resources. Please note: £257k of the remaining budget has been included as part of the savings proposals for 2018/19 and will be included in the 2018/19 budget consultation.	
Finance Officer: Neil Sinclair, Interim Finance Business Partner	

Summary of issue / proposal:
 To change the way BCC works with place based communities from a council-led neighbourhood partnership structure to an approach which encourages local self-organisation and community-led action. Establish new arrangements for making decisions about the local element of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and devolved S106.

Summary of proposal & options appraisal:

1. To meet the challenge facing the city and build a more sustainable future, BCC needs to fundamentally re-shape the relationship with the people of Bristol to become collaborators and facilitators, and the council needs to be more prepared to get out of the way and transfer power to greater numbers of people. We need to minimise ‘council led’ and get behind ‘community-led’, encourage self- organisation and social action based on reciprocity and shared interests. As a city we need to develop a better understanding of what residents in communities are best placed to do together, what communities can do with the right help and what needs to be done by the council and others.

3. Through the ‘Your Neighbourhoods’ consultation we asked the people of Bristol how best to spend the remaining £309k and how they want to influence decisions, in particular, the local element of Community Infrastructure Levy. A summary of the consultation process and findings is available in appendix B.

We are bringing forward two linked proposals following and taking in to consideration the responses from consultation.

Proposal 1 Supporting community-led action

a. The Your Neighbourhoods consultation showed clear support for resources to be made available to enable community meetings and communications. BCC’s aim is to encourage place based communities to self -organise, create a welcoming space for people of all ages and backgrounds to make new connections, build on what’s strong and take action on the things that people care about. Some communities have access to suitable meeting places free of charge in other areas the cost can be prohibitive. With no funding there is a greater risk venues are used that are not accessible to disabled people. To help communities to meet together up to £14k p.a. will be made available to cover the cost of hiring accessible venues where this is needed.

b. This community action will be supported by local councillors who have a crucial role to play in supporting residents to realise their ambitions for their communities. A recent paper from the Local Government Information Unit (LGIU) proposes ward members take ‘a facilitative rather than leading part. Whether it is removing obstacles, offering advice, helping residents to navigate council processes or engaging with key decision makers, councillors are well positioned to smooth the path of community-led

initiatives.’ (LGIU 2017)

c. BCC continues to encourage and facilitate citizen-led action in the way we work with people, communities and partners. Practical examples include; continuing to support communities to establish local networks; a growing asset based community development network; ‘[CandoBristol](#)’ web platform to help people make connections and take action on the things that matter to them; citywide networking to share stories, learning and inspiration; investing in community and voluntary organisations through the Bristol Impact Fund.

d. The majority of respondents to the ‘Your Neighbourhoods’ consultation also supported the proposal to fund community projects through a small grants fund with the majority of the funding targeted at areas with the greatest inequality and ranked 0-20% most deprived in England (Index Multiple Deprivation 2015). It is proposed Cabinet delay consideration of this until after the budget consultation and approval of the 2018/19 budget in February 2018.

Proposal 2 - Local CIL and S106 decision making

a. Establish 6 ‘Area CIL/S106 Committees’ of ward members. The purpose of the committee will be to take decisions over spend of the local element of CIL and devolved S106 where there is a decision to be made about what and or where the s106 is spent.

b. In many instances s106 monies are for a specific project and the only decision is when it should be delivered. In these cases it is proposed to delegate the final approval to service directors to deliver the scheme in full consultation with ward members.

c. The committees will meet once a year with the option of an additional meeting where required and will be supported by Democratic Services. It is suggested the meetings take place on the same day at City Hall.

d. A map showing the proposed boundaries of the 6 committees is attached in appendix A1

e. Areas with Neighbourhood Development Plans that benefit from an additional 10% of local CIL will be asked to identify priorities for the funding available.

f. Introduce a consistent citywide process where CIL funding is available to all organisations which meet the criteria and best placed to deliver priorities agreed by area committee members in consultation with local communities. Where funding is approved for a third party organisation a funding agreement and appropriate monitoring arrangements will be in place.

g. All CIL funded projects will be expected to meet citywide criteria as set out in appendix A2.

h. The new process will reduce the cost of administration by encouraging fewer, larger value projects.

i. It is suggested the process has three stages 1) Ward members consult their communities and newly established self-organised networks to agree one or two local CIL priorities. 2) Area committee members meet to agree area priorities and invite proposals. 3) Decisions are made in committee to agree spend with the first meetings taking place in June/July 2018 (The proposed Terms of Reference is attached in appendix A).

j. When consulting communities it is important to note 49.6% of respondents to the ‘Your neighbourhoods’ consultation said they would like to influence decisions using online platforms and suggested this is a way of reaching a wider audience.

k. It is proposed £38k will fund an officer to support the development of CIL proposal, ensure funding agreements are in place and monitor delivery of projects.

Recommendation(s) / steer sought:

- 1. To approve arrangements to support community action and continue to ensure local people can influence decisions through their local ward councillors.**

2. To delegate responsibility for the expenditure of £271k (formally 'wellbeing fund' expended by the Neighbourhood Committees/Partnerships) to the Service Director of Neighbourhoods & Communities
3. To support the proposal to go to Full Council to establish 6 Area CIL/s106 Committees.
4. To note the proposals to disband the existing Neighbourhood Committees/Partnerships.
5. To, in principle, agree to the delegation of the expenditure of CIL local monies and non-earmarked s.106 monies to the 6 Area CIL/s106 committees with the Mayor's scheme of delegation to be updated once the committees have been set up.

City Outcome: *To change the way BCC works with local people by encouraging neighbourhood communities to self-organise and take action on the things that matter most. BCC will encourage, facilitate and collaborate.*

Health Outcome summary: The Marmot Review 2010 argues that key to tackling health inequality is greater self-determination and building social capital at a local level. These proposals are about encouraging community-led action (Fair Society, Healthy Lives, Marmot 2010).

Sustainability Outcome summary: While there will be no direct environmental impact from the proposal, the loss of any preferred communications channels between communities in Bristol and the council could lead to communication failures on environmental issues. This could affect two-way warnings, reporting, and responding during extreme weather, pollution, or fly tipping events. This will be avoided by the council's central control centre having access to and checking the council's social media accounts for specific communities and co-ordinating communications and responses. The overall indirect environmental impact is likely to be negative, but the suggested mitigation could make this impact neutral.
Giles Liddell, Environmental Performance Team, Energy Service, Place.

Equalities Outcome summary:

The new structure brings a new opportunity to improve the way equalities communities engage and influence their neighbourhoods. The barriers to equalities communities being fully involved in the new structure are, the cost of accessible venues, lack of outreach to encourage marginalised communities, lack of resources in areas without social capital and infrastructure and the community led work may not ensure the views of equalities groups are sought. Resources need to be made available to guard against these barriers

There will be significant job losses of a diverse team. The managing change policy will be followed and diverse recruiter scheme encouraged throughout any subsequent redeployment process.

Wanda Knight, Equalities Policy Officer. 4/9/17

Impact / Involvement of partners: *Partners have been involved in the engagement and consultation and will continue to engage with communities through the self-organised groups. BCC will continue to have close working connections with the Police, third sector and other partners. Maintaining and progressing effective, place based, partnership arrangements is essential particularly in areas which experience the greatest inequality and where there is high dependency on public services.*

Consultation carried out: Since the full council decision we have been working with stakeholders to develop a transition process and the proposals take account of the findings and outcome of the 'Your Neighbourhoods' consultation. A summary of the engagement and consultation can be found in appendix B.

Legal Consideration:

Consultation - the consultation responses must be taken into account in finalising the decision. The process has complied with the established consultation principles:

- Consultation should occur when proposals are at a formative stage;
- Consultations should give sufficient reasons for any proposal to permit intelligent consideration;
- Consultations should allow adequate time for consideration and response;

Cabinet must demonstrate that it has considered the consultation responses, or a summary of them, before taking its decision.

Equality Act - the decision maker must also comply with the Public Sector Equality duty to consider the

need to promote equality for persons with “protected characteristics”: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation and have due regard to:

- i) eliminate discrimination, harassment, and victimisation
- ii) advance equality of opportunity
- iii) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it.

In order to do this Cabinet will need to have sufficient information about the effects of the proposed changes on the aims of the Equality Duty. The Equalities impact assessment is designed to assist with compliance with this duty and so Cabinet must take into consideration the assessment and the public sector equality duty before taking the decision.

The proposal to set up new area committees to replace the existing arrangements will require Full Council approval. Further legal advice will be provided as required in the establishment of these committees and regarding necessary amendments to the Mayors scheme of delegations.

The proposals outlined in the report and appendices will ensure that the distribution and spending of s106 and CIL monies will continue to meet legislative requirements and continue to ensure community engagement with the process.

Legal Officer: Nancy Rollason, Head of Legal Service

DLT sign-off	SLT sign-off	Cabinet Member sign-off
Alison Comely 13/09/17	John Redman 26/09/17	Asher Craig 23/11/17

Appendix A – Further essential background / detail on the proposal	YES
Appendix B – Details of consultation carried out - internal and external	YES
Appendix C – Summary of any engagement with scrutiny	NO
Appendix D – Risk assessment	YES
Appendix E – Equalities screening / impact assessment of proposal	YES
Appendix F – Eco-impact screening/ impact assessment of proposal	YES
Appendix G – Exempt Information	NO