

Part D – Joint and Area Working Arrangements

Section D2:- Area Working Arrangements

In Part D:-

Section D1 explains the types of arrangements the council can enter into with other councils, organisations and people to deliver services together, or for each other. It sets out the key joint arrangements currently in place, what they do and where you can get more information.

This Section (D2) explains about local area working and the types of local area working arrangements that we have in place.

Part D – Joint and Area Working Arrangements

Section D2:- Area Working Arrangements

In this Section:-

- 1. Introduction**
- 2. Cheshire West and Chester Local Strategic Partnership**
- 3. Area Partnership Boards**
- 4. Community Forums**
- 5. Transitional Arrangements**

1 Introduction

- 1.1 Sections B1 and C1 explain how the council make arrangements to deliver the services that it is responsible for. The introduction to section D1 explains how the council can enter into joint arrangements with other local authorities, organisations or people to deliver services together or for each other. This section sets out how all of those types of arrangements are used to deliver and inform the delivery of services to meet the specific needs of local areas.

2 Cheshire West and Chester Local Strategic Partnership

Introduction and Composition

- 2.1 The Cheshire West and Chester Local Strategic Partnership (“LSP”) is made up of representatives of key public, private, voluntary and community sector interests from across West Cheshire.
- 2.2 Together, the LSP is responsible for co-ordinating local and authority-wide action to build consensus on priorities, desired outcomes and key measures of success. It operates to improve service delivery and quality of life in communities, taking account of local, sub-regional, regional and national imperatives.

Key Roles

- 2.3 The key roles and responsibilities of the LSP are to:-
- (a) exercise a leadership and governing role through identifying and articulating the needs and aspirations of local communities and reconciling or arbitrating between competing interests
 - (b) have oversight of and coordinate community consultation and engagement activities of individual partners and where appropriate combine them
 - (c) produce a Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) based on data and evidence from the local area and its population, to establish a shared local vision and priorities for action
 - (d) have oversight of the planning and alignment of resources in the locality (where relevant to delivery of the Sustainable Community Strategy and LAA)

in order to achieve more effective and efficient commissioning and ultimately better outcomes

Core Structures

2.4 The LSP is comprised of three core elements as follows:-

- (a) The Steering Group which is a broad inclusive group of representatives from the public, private, community and voluntary sectors meeting quarterly across the Cheshire West and Chester unitary authority area. Chaired by Leader of Cheshire West and Chester Council.
- (b) The LSP Network. The Network organises conference and workshop style events drawing together the members of all partnership's constituent bodies. Events are held twice a year to ensure all partners have the opportunity to engage and contribute to the development and delivery of the Sustainable Community Strategy.

Thematic Partnerships

2.5 The thematic partnerships are comprised of key LSP members with shared remits in the following areas:-

- (a) **Safer and Stronger Communities** (incorporating crime, community safety, street scene and related issues and services)
- (b) **Children and Young People** (incorporating Cheshire West and Chester Children's Trust)
- (c) **Health and Well-being** (incorporating adult social care, older people, health inequalities, and related issues and services)

2.6 The key purpose of each Thematic Partnership is to commission and oversee service delivery in line with the needs of communities within the Cheshire West and Chester unitary authority area to develop/coordinate best practice and improve quality.

2.7 More information on the LSP is available at www.westcheshiretogether.org.uk

3 Area Partnership Boards

Introduction and Composition

- 3.1 There are 5 Area Partnership Boards, one for each of the following areas in the borough:-
- (a) Chester
 - (b) Ellesmere Port
 - (c) Northwich and Rural North
 - (d) Winsford and Rural East
 - (e) Rural West
- 3.2 The membership of Area Partnership Boards will be determined by local priorities but as a core membership each APB will include:-
- (a) a town or parish council representative to be elected from the relevant catchment area (or resident group where this is not applicable)
 - (b) a representative from the Third Sector to be nominated by the Third Sector Assembly
 - (c) a lead Member and deputy Member elected by the relevant local Ward Members
 - (d) relevant partners for each priority, for example Cheshire Constabulary

Roles and Responsibilities

- 3.3 The Area Partnership Boards provide differential services to meet the differing needs of each partnership area and to improve outcomes for local communities. Each Area Partnership Board will establish Action Teams to deliver the priorities within the Area Action Plans. The key roles of each Area Partnership Board are:-
- (a) develop local priorities through the analysis of research and intelligence, performance management, and community engagement
 - (b) develop and implement Area Action Plans to meet local priorities through their Action Teams
 - (c) commission services to meet local priorities through aligned budgets and external funding

(d) respond to the needs of local communities and support community engagement through the Community Forums

3.4 Partner organisations will be asked to sponsor Area Partnership Boards and this sponsorship may take a variety of forms including secondments of staff, alignment of budgets to meet shared priorities, Chairing of the APB, provision of accommodation etc. These arrangements will be determined over the coming months.

3.5 More information on Area Partnership Boards is available at www.westcheshiretogether.org

4 Community Forums

Introduction and Composition

4.1 There are fifteen Community Forums in place across Cheshire West and Chester, based on ward boundaries. The Community Forums are comprised of representatives from representatives from town and parish councils, community groups, partners from the public, private and third sector as appropriate and ward Members.

Roles and Responsibilities

4.2 Community Forums exist to increase resident involvement and community engagement in the delivery of improved services and outcomes for the local community. The Forums' key roles are to:-

- (a) Promote the role of Members in their role as Community Champions
- (b) Develop participatory budgeting
- (c) Provide the first response to local petitions
- (d) Provide the duty to promote democracy
- (e) Engage the local community in the delivery of improved services
- (f) Pro-actively raise issues of community concerns to Area Partnership Boards

Meetings

4.3 Community Forums meet at least four times a year.

4.4 Neighbourhood and community organisations and members of the public and Partner organisations are encouraged to attend and participate in meetings.

4.5 Chairs and Deputy Chairs are elected by and from the Forum Ward Members.

Members' Budgets

4.6 Members may allocate their Member Budgets (with or without match funding from partner organisations) to Forum objectives in accordance with clear and transparent guidelines based on existing good financial practice.

4.7 Member Budgets may be pooled to ward and/or Community Forum level.

4.8 More information of Community Forums can be found at:

www.westcheshiretogether.org.uk

5 Transitional Arrangements (2012)

5.1 The partnership governance arrangements described above are currently under review as we move forward with a range of local partnership arrangements, conduct a Community Governance Review, and progress the Altogether Better Community Budgets Programme. Full details will be available towards the end of 2012.