



# The Gosport Partnership

" Working Together For The Gosport Community "

## Gosport Partnership Board Meeting Wednesday 23 June 2010

### Item 6 Briefing Paper Neighbourhood Partnerships

#### 1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek LSP Community Cohesion Funding to support Rowner Neighbourhood Management, as the pilot is only funded until October 2010.
- 1.2 This funding, combined with other sources, would enable progress to be sustained and built upon, in order to tackle remaining priorities around youth, employment, skills and health, thereby reducing deprivation and improving community cohesion.

#### 2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Neighbourhoods, localism and Total Place, remain dominant elements of Government Policy. Future funding constraints increase the need for effective partnership working, early intervention/prevention, targeting of resources and sustainable solutions which the Rowner Neighbourhood Management approach facilitates.

#### 3.0 REPORT

- 3.1 The LSP initiated a two year Neighbourhood Management pilot in Rowner. The aim of the pilot was to 'tackle the symptoms and causes of deprivation in an effective, efficient and sustainable way'. It was based on an approach of addressing immediate visible resident concerns and building on the capacity and ownership of residents resulting in long term and lasting change.
- 3.2 Utilising the Neighbourhood Management approach benefits public sector agencies by providing:
  - An effective multi agency approach to tackling the symptoms and causes of deprivation.
  - Sustainable solutions through community involvement and community coaching.
  - A clear and trusted contact point for residents and improved relations/reputation.
  - Coordination to improve service delivery.
  - Improved links with the community, resulting in a better understanding of needs and solutions including improved targeting of resources.
  - A basic community engagement framework.
  - Activity that supports the delivery of the majority of Local Area Agreement priorities.
- 3.2 To facilitate this approach a Neighbourhood Coordinator was appointed in October 2008 to engage local residents, identify issues that caused or exacerbated disadvantage and then coordinate actions and services in response. A key element of this pilot was the development of resident engagement to contribute to sustainable solutions and increased flexibility and responsiveness of service providers.
- 3.3 The Coordinator has made significant progress in building community engagement, capacity, environment and image:

- **Community Engagement and Capacity Building**
- establishing effective resident-responsive engagement mechanisms in Rowner, where outcomes include:
  - over 700 residents directly benefiting from the service provided by the coordinator; including representation of residents' interests and service brokerage.
  - bi-monthly stakeholder meetings providing a forum for engagement between resident representatives and service providers.
  - bi-monthly business support meetings offering specific (requested) support from Business Link to help directors of the resident management companies identify potential savings and opportunities for joint working to share good practice and achieve economies of scale through joint contracting.
  - establishing a resident email distribution list for over 150 households in the north Grange area.
  - supporting the submission of articles and funding of a community newsletter.
- **Building the capacity and ownership of residents, including:**
- reporting of fly-tipping, graffiti, abandoned vehicles, noise and nuisance issues by residents.
- establishing regular peer-to-peer information sharing, leading to savings and ongoing opportunities for joint working and contracting.
- establishing regular meetings between residents and service providers to jointly identify and address common issues.
- re-focusing community development activity in support of group.
- **Environment & Image**
- by addressing immediate, visible, concerns related to the environment and physical surroundings, including:
  - negotiating with Gosport Borough Council to provide 'clean team' and enforcement services on private land.
  - sourcing and coordinating additional services from partner organizations, including the Probation Service, Police, PCSOs and Groundwork.
  - obtaining one day per month free grounds maintenance support from Enterprise Plc.
- identifying and progressing sustainable environmental service improvements and coordination, including:
  - initiating works to establish the requirements and costs of bringing unadopted roads up to the standard necessary for adoption.
  - identifying and pursuing immediate and longer term action in relation to the Rowner Rec, to the extent that a permanent solution is being actively progressed.
  - contributing to discussions on the proposed development of a community land trust.

3.4 Neighbourhood Management is also having a positive impact on community cohesion by promoting a shared sense of belonging to the local community, providing opportunities for people from different backgrounds to have social contact/mix and helping improve general satisfaction with the local area (a key influence/driver in community cohesion).

3.5 There is a need to sustain this initial progress in Rowner and build upon it to tackle remaining priorities around youth, employment, skills and health. Future opportunities include securing self sustaining estate management, facilitating road upgrade/adoption, better aligning services, improved information sharing, training of volunteers to work with

young people, developing a youth forum to engage more young people in transition projects, facilitating apprenticeships with Rowner Regeneration and pre-employment support and access to retail jobs.

3.6 There are prospects for environmental improvements to become self-sustaining over the next 18-24 months. However there is a real risk that progress will be undermined and community confidence lost if support does not continue during the intervening period. Funding of this approach for a further two years will enable the sustainable solutions (eg: capacity building) to become embedded and as this occurs the Coordinator can start to focus on other areas of multiple deprivation in the Borough.

3.7 Funding requirements to employ a Neighbourhood Coordinator for Rowner Neighbourhood Management is shown below:

<b>Financing of Rowner Neighbourhood Management (1/10/10-31/10/12)</b>			
<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>Yr 1</b>	<b>Yr 2</b>	<b>Total</b>
Neighbourhood Coordinator	£36000	£36000	£72000
Other delivery costs -equipment, travel, hospitality, training, seed funding, redundancy allocations etc.	£10000	£10000	£20000
<b>Total Staff Costs</b>	<b>£46000</b>	<b>£46000</b>	<b>£92000</b>
<b>Potential funding sources</b>			
Hampshire Council Funding (including Hampshire Action Team and HCC Community Strategy Funding <sup>1</sup> ) -£25,000 per annum for two years.			£50000
LSP Community Cohesion Funding			£30000
GBC Contribution			£12000
<b>Potential total income</b>			<b>£92000</b>

3.8 If the LSP agrees to allocate its Community Cohesion Funding as requested above, then bids to the HAT and HCC will be made.

3.9 It is suggested that the employment and line management of the coordinator remains via the Council (Economic Prosperity Section) with the strategic direction being provided by the multi agency Neighbourhood Management Board. It is also suggested that a formal review of the future of Neighbourhood Management be undertaken in the summer of 2012. If it is appropriate to continue with this approach this will provide a period of time to secure funding and resources, alternatively redundancy allocation has been included in the financing proposal.

#### **4.0 CONCLUSION**

4.1 The Gosport Partnership Board is requested to allocate £30,000k Community Cohesion Funding to support Rowner Neighbourhood Management.

<sup>1</sup> Previously allocated by HCC to the Rowner Neighbourhood Management Pilot  
Last printed 17/06/2010 13:55:00