

## **Update on Localisation**

**Report for Housing and Neighbourhoods O&S Committee: 25<sup>th</sup> February 2021**

### **Background**

Following the dissolution of District Committees, the City Council launched its new approach to locality working in 2018 with 'Localism in Birmingham – a Framework for Future Policy' and in 2019 in a policy paper entitled 'Working Together in Birmingham's Neighbourhoods'. Between them these papers set out some core areas of activity

- Setting up Ward Forums
- Each Ward setting out its priorities and actions in a Ward Plan
- Establishing Relationship Managers.
- Maximising resources that can be utilised at the local level
- A new framework for relationships, giving greater clarity on how groups can get more involved in influencing or delivering services
- The ability to draw up neighbourhood charters
- A statement of support to areas wanting to develop neighbourhood/parish councils
- The potential for devo deals with appropriately experienced and constituted groups.

More recently in 2020 an additional report was commissioned entitled 'Birmingham's Collaborative Neighbourhoods' (appendix 1). This was to understand any learning from the community led response to coronavirus and what this could mean for re-setting the civic and community relationship.

All the above has then resulted in a set of actions captured in a Localisation Delivery Plan (appendix 2) progress against which is being monitored on a monthly basis.

### **Key areas of progress**

#### **1. Community Recovery**

The impact from community organisations in response to the Covid-19 emergency has been phenomenal. Where appropriate teams across the council have worked more flexibly to ensure that relationships of this nature are maximised i.e. Neighbourhoods Network Services. Within this portfolio we have issues small grants through Pioneer Places and worked with a large range of groups to offer support.

In addition to general support provided, a report was also commissioned to understand better what more could be done to improve the civic and community relationship. The nine recommendations from the report are set out in appendix 1 and where appropriate translated through to the Localisation Delivery Plan (Appendix 2)

## 2. Ward Forums

Ward Forums have been established across the city and support provided to enable four meetings per year plus a further two focussed on the Ward Plan. With the changes imposed on face to face meetings, new virtual meetings were quickly established and the numbers of people attending and viewing meetings on line has increased.

## 3. Ward Plans

Ward Plans have now been produced by 45 of the 69 wards. Increasing importance is being attached to the priorities within these documents particularly with regard to local resources with CWG Celebrating Communities and Local Community Infrastructure Levy both being linked to ward plan priorities/actions.

## 4. Local Resources

In addition to Minor Transport Measures and Housing Environmental Capital Budgets two additional funding streams have now been agreed through Cabinet. A £2m Commonwealth Games Celebrating Communities funding stream has been devised for launch in the coming months and a support was also given to a ward based approach to allocating Local Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) through grants and crowdfunding. Only certain wards with certain development types have a Local CIL allocation.

## 5. Pioneer Places

Ten areas of the city were adopted as pioneer places and as well as being anchors within their own community are also working with the city on new approaches. The pioneer places have had access to Cabinet Members, the Chief Executive and Service Directors and have therefore been able to ensure their ideas are heard at the highest level.

## 6. Neighbourhood/Parish Councils

Following on from the proactive policy set out in 'Working Together in Birmingham's Neighbourhoods' offering support should areas want to develop Neighbourhood/Parish Councils, an officer working group has been established to provide support to the three areas of the city currently exploring this potential. The group will also lead the officer work required on Community Governance Reviews should they be required

## **Localisation Delivery Plan**

The plan in appendix 2 sets out some of the further activities scheduled over the next 12 months and also provides updates on some of the activities to date.

UPDATE FEB 2021 (v03-02-2021)

**Appendix 2**  
**Localisation Delivery Plan**  
**‘Working Together’ : Key actions to progress localisation in 2020/21 and 2021/22**

Action Plan resulting from ‘Working Together in Birmingham’s Neighbourhoods’ and ‘Birmingham’s Collaborative Neighbourhoods’

policy	what	Current activity	Next steps	Lead officer	2020/21			2021/22				Status
					Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
New	Update WTiBN’s policy learning	Commission a review of the impact of covid-19 on place based community organisations and learning with regard to future support and relationships. Locality produced the report and its key findings were contained within cabinet report ‘Covid 19: update on evaluation of impact and recovery planning’ on 9-2-21		Karen C								complete
New		Captured the current information that defines the ward and outward facing local offer	Report to be taken to Cabinet Member Briefing	Chris J								
New	Wider ownership of localisation through cross cutting Board/Programme. /Steering Group	Discussion taken place between AD Neighbourhoods, Assistant Chief Executive and Chief Executive on history of localisation, the reports emerging from the Community Recovery Group and the need for an overarching framework/operating model.  Community Recovery Framework written by BVSC and supported at CLT.	Review Partnership Board (internal and external) approach in context of ‘Investing in our Future’ report and the approach to driving forward change regarding community participation, trust and localisation.	Chris J								
WTiBNs	Wider ownership of localisation through cross cutting Board/Programme.	New corporate performance measures set relating to Ward Forum, Ward Plans and number of CAT/community leases	Review what further measures are required to make council more responsive to residents i.e.	Karen C Neil DC								

policy	what	Current activity	Next steps	Lead officer	2020/21			2021/22				Status
					Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
	/Steering Group		relationship managers, data workstream, wider involvement of services									
BCNs	Wider ownership of localisation through cross cutting Board/Programme. /Steering Group  To shift BCC role from 'gatekeeper' to 'enabler and facilitator'.		Steer to be taken from corporate work on Prevention and Community Participation	Chris J Karen C								
WTiBNs	Pioneer Places	Joint working with the 10 pioneer places commenced.  Network of 30 groups within Pioneer Places now supported through Locality. Pioneer places granted £1k to address covid19 issues  Groups have been extended to Sept 21		Karen C								Complete
WTiBNs	Pioneer Places	Director of Inclusive Growth, Chief Executive and Cllr Thompson have met Pioneer Places	All Directors/Directorates to be invited to discussion with Pioneer Places	Karen C								
WTiBNs	Pioneer Places		Write report on learning from Pioneer Places (what have they influenced) for presentation to Directorates and Cabinet Members	Karen C								
WTiBNs	Pioneer Places		Decision on whether to add further pioneer places	Karen C								

policy	what	Current activity	Next steps	Lead officer	2020/21			2021/22				Status
					Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
WTiBNs BCNs	Capacity building and support for target groups		On back on Pioneer Places Review also consider impact of partnership with locality (their offer, area networks ,fit to WTiBN's) and consider funding more groups to obtain support by joining Locality	Neil DC								
WTiBNs BCNs	Capacity building and support for target groups	Locality have a regular Birmingham and WM meeting attended by Birmingham member organisations- enabling city wide networking and support		Chris J Karen C								complete
CRRR	Capacity building and support for target groups		Infrastructure support grants for smaller, emerging and newly established community groups (£10k)	NDSU								
CRRR	Capacity building and support for target groups		Infrastructure support grants for Black and Minority Ethnic led community groups (£10k)	NDSU								
WTiBN's	Capacity building and support for target groups		Grants to develop community anchor networks in targeted neighbourhoods – proposals to include support on ward planning (£20k)	NDSU								
WTiBN's	Capacity building and support for target groups		Write decision report for grants to community hubs to provide library services (£20k) money advice	Chris J								Some covered by emergency assistance fund.

policy	what	Current activity	Next steps	Lead officer	2020/21			2021/22				Status
					Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
			(£35k) food bank (£10k).									
Budget	Capacity building and support for target groups	Recruitment of post being concluded to ensure improved interaction and support for 12 Business Improvement Districts	Secure start date	Symon E								
WTiBNs	Ward Plans	Templates issued, guidance given, currently wards have produced 45/69 plans.  CWG celebrating Communities fund and Local CIL both require a Ward Plan	Requirement to produce a Ward Plan to be included in Constitution	NDSU								
	Ward Plans		Refresh ward plans	NDSU								
	Ward Plans	Resource identified to increase support capacity	Increase staff numbers to support ward plan development	Chris J								
	Ward Plans	Cabinet Member has agreed a set of priorities for member development/training regarding localisation.	Put together a ward planning workshop (on process of developing a ward plan) in the ward or on line.	Cllr McCarthy K Cheney								
	Ward Plans	£10k available for each cabinet portfolio to invest in projects from ward plans	Write mechanism to enable spend and approve projects	Karen C								
	Ward Plans	Officers support secured for c. £2m available across 11 wards from Local Community Infrastructure Levy. Report agreed at cabinet.	Procure crowdfunding platform Launch scheme	Neil DC & Hayley C								
	Ward Plans		Review to consider revised CIL policy to broaden applicability of local CIL	Hayley C								
WTiBNs	Ward Forum implementation	Ward Forums set up across city.	All Ward Forums to be offered virtual meetings	NDSU								complete
WTiBNs	Community Based	BCC has defined its properties between	Paper to Cabinet Member	Chris J								

policy	what	Current activity	Next steps	Lead officer	2020/21			2021/22				Status
					Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
	Assets	commercial, regeneration, operational and community.  Birmingham part of Locality's review of CATs	on community hubs and alignment within this property strategy									
WTiBNs	Community Based Assets		Update CAT policy	Karen C								
WTiBNs	Community Based Assets	Resource identified to support processing of ACV submissions  Process for determining ACV re-established (cabinet July 2020)	Updated guidance to be written on what BCC's policy is for determining an ACV.	NDSU								
WTiBNs	Neighbourhood Network Services	Wider approach to NNS being considered by Whole Life Course Board	Review applicability of extending NNS to wider services and outcomes.	Kal K								Date tbc
WTiBNs	Neighbourhood Planning	Working group established on Neighbourhood/Parish Councils including links to Neighbourhood Planning  Inclusive growth have officers nominated to areas where Neighbourhood Plans are being considered.	Consider other ways to improve City Council support to Neighbourhood Planning including the provision of information from planning colleagues.	Chris J Rebecca F Doug L								
WTiBNs	Neighbourhood / Parish Councils	WTiBN's policy set out support to develop N/P councils. Perry Barr, Balsall Heath and Jewellery Quarter all reviewing appropriateness of a N/P council. New budgets established to support areas on their journey to ballot Cross Directorate Working Group established	Appoint officer into the NDSU team to lead, to continue to provide support to this policy.  Policy paper 'process for creating new parish councils' to cabinet.	Chris J								.

policy	what	Current activity	Next steps	Lead officer	2020/21			2021/22				Status
					Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
WTiBNs	External Funding Support	PINCH cross organisation funding network established. Joint work with WM funders to set up a funding webinar 10-2-21	Appoint NDSU team member to help local neighbourhood-based organisations maximise funding	Chris J								
Local Offer	External Funding Support		Each of the 69 ward plans to identify their top priority for external funding support (project and lead third sector group). The external funding officer will then support the group in submitting an application to the most appropriate funding body and discuss at Pinch. Develop a charter/process with funders to ensure they will consider Ward Plans	Ward Cllrs  New NDSU officer								
WTiBNs	Local Funding	Meeting held regarding community lottery	Consider funding options for a new local area small grants fund.	Chris J Karen C								
Budget	Local Funding	Additional £2m to be invested in CWG projects at a ward level.  Cabinet has agreed CWG Celebrating Communities Fund	Member Information sessions to take place in February 2021  Fund to be launched in April 2021	Cat Orchard & NDSU								
WTiBNs	Develop the role of		Identify clear officer	Chris								

policy	what	Current activity	Next steps	Lead officer	2020/21			2021/22				Status
					Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
	Relationship Managers, adding more services where possible.		responsibility for leading on the Relationship Managers initiative.  Review to take place of Relationship Managers									
WTiBN's	Devo Deal		Publish Devo Deal prospectus	Tony S								Date tbc
WTiBN's	Devo Deal	10 projects/services were identified for review by RSCTC. Projects such as Walmley Memorial and Vesey Gardens are progressing individually and when all concluded will be wrapped up in a Devo Deal.	Continue to progress other projects with RSCTC	Chris								
CRRR	Locally focussed procurement	Initial scoping paper considering 5 principles for 'keep it local' has been produced.	NDSU/Locality in the process of setting up a training session around procurement practice.  Review and if appropriate adopt the 'Keep it local' campaign.  Endorsing the Keep it Local principles at cabinet.  Nominate Keep it Local champions – cabinet member and chief officer.  Commit to a process of working with Locality to assess and improve	Haydn B & NDSU								Date tbc

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					Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
			current practice  Convene a discussion with your local community on what Keep it Local means in the Birmingham setting									
WTiBNs	Local data	A ward data working group has been set up. Officers and ward councillors are represented.	Review data sources for neighbourhoods to support engagement, ward planning and performance monitoring - document to Cabinet Member	Varun Sitaram Louerell Harris NDSU								
Budget	Recognising the positive work of the VCSE sector		Annual Localisation Week	NDSU communications								