

Update on Localisation

Report for Housing and Neighbourhoods O&S Committee: 23rd September 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'. 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 progress against which is set out in Appendix 1.

Key areas of progress

1. Wider Ownership of Localisation

A Localisation Star chamber process has been set up. The process has been established to understand the contribution each directorate is making to the localisation agenda and to identify areas where further progress can be made.

2. Ward Forums & Ward Plans

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. As of May 2021, the requirement for at least 4 ward forum meetings per municipal year has been added to the Constitution

Ward Plans and Priorities 2018-22 Documents have now been produced by Ward Forums for 54 of the 69 wards.

3. Local Resources

The £2m Commonwealth Games Celebrating Communities funding stream is now operational, with round 1 Ward Participatory Decision-making meetings now taking place.

The crowdfunding scheme to utilise Local Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) has now been procured and this new method to fund local projects will be developed during the third quarter of this year.

A Social Value portal has been launched whereby local community groups can submit projects and matches potentially found with business offering support.

4. Pioneer Places

Ten areas of the city continue as pioneer places and as well as being anchors within their own community are also supporting and challenging the city council on its approach to local working.

5. Neighbourhood/Parish Councils & Neighbourhood Planning

Cabinet has now approved the process for establishing a parish/neighbourhood council. The recently established officer working group is continuing to support Balsall Heath, Perry Barr/3Bs and the Jewellery Quarter in their deliberations in this regard.

Officers are awaiting the outcome of a funding bid to MHCLG in July to develop a neighbourhood planning toolkit, particularly prioritising those neighbourhoods who would like more support to develop a neighbourhood plan.

6. Community Capacity Building

Birmingham Community Matters and Locality have been providing support to community groups particularly in regard to Celebrating Communities Fund. In addition to this resources have been secured to support community infrastructure and community recovery.

7. Increased capacity within the NDSU

Recruitment and Selection for additional Community Support and Development Officers took place in the early summer 2021 and 4 new members of staff started in the team in September creating more capacity to focus more proactively on some of the key thematic areas within the Working Together in Birmingham's Neighbourhoods Policy document.

Localisation Delivery Plan

The plan in appendix 1 sets out some of the further activities scheduled over the next 6 months and also provides updates on the activities to date.

Appendix 1 Updated 7-9-21

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'

Blue = complete

Green = in progress

Yellow = on track

Red = delayed

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 informed by learning in star chambers as to what the offers are from other services	Chris J								
New	Wider ownership of localisation through cross cutting Board/Programme. /Steering Group	Community Recovery Framework written by BVSC and adopted by BCC. Community recovery Board Set up and chaired by Cllr Cotton Localisation Star Chambers set up		Chris J								complete
WTiBNs	Wider ownership of localisation through cross cutting Board/Programme. /Steering Group	New corporate performance measures set relating to Ward Forum, Ward Plans, CIL, CWG funding and number of CAT/community leases	Discuss with cabinet member/star chamber any further KPIs	Karen C Neil DC								Complete

