

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

PUBLIC REPORT

Report to:	CABINET COMMITTEE LOCAL LEADERSHIP	
Date of Decision:	19 JULY 2017	
Report of:	CORPORATE DIRECTOR - PLACE	
SUBJECT:	TAKING FORWARD LOCAL LEADERSHIP	
Key Decision: No	Relevant Forward Plan Ref: N/A	
If not in the Forward Plan: (please "X" box)	Chief Executive approved O&S Chairman approved	
Relevant Cabinet Member(s) or Relevant Executive Member:	ALL ALL	
Relevant O&S Chairman:	Cllr Aikhaq, Chair of the Corporate Resources and Governance O&S Committee	
Wards affected:	ALL	

**1. Purpose of report:**

1.1. This report presents proposals for the next stages in taking forward the Local Leadership project during 2017/18, laying the foundations for further work in 2018/19.

**2. Decisions recommended:**

That Cabinet Committee:

2.1 Approve the pilot ward arrangements for both Ward Plans including the appropriate provision of data, and Relationship Managers to further develop the local leadership agenda outlined in the attached paper (Appendix A)

2.2 Agree to receive further detailed proposals on area working, including Ward Action Co-ordinators and Improving Data available at a local level at the September meeting of the Committee, along with a detailed Action Plan for all of the work entailed by this report

2.3 Approve the constitutional changes outlined in section 6 of Appendix A, subject to later report to Council Business Management Committee and approval at September full council.

Lead Contact Officer(s):	Chris Jordan Assistant Director Neighbourhoods and Communities Place Directorate
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### **3. Consultation**

#### **3.1 Internal**

The proposals in this report have been developed by the Assistant Leaders in consultation with appropriate Cabinet Members, District Chairs and the Leader of the Council and are based on a wide consultation with councillors of all parties.

#### **3.2 External**

The pilot arrangements proposed will include engagement with local communities and partners.

### **4. Compliance Issues:**

#### **4.1 Are the recommended decisions consistent with the Council's policies, plans and strategies?**

The recommendations are fully consistent with the Council's policies. The Council Vision and Forward Plan document, approved by the Cabinet in May 2017 recognises the importance of neighbourhoods and places and commits to the delivery of better, more efficient services and to "councillors, council officers, partners and communities having a shared endeavour to influence services and policy". The proposals in the attached paper are designed to take forward that ambition. The work of the Cabinet Committee is taking forward the next stage of an evolutionary process which began in 2015/16 with initial changes to the role of districts and the creation of Sutton Coldfield Town Council. This stage will conclude in 2018 with the switch to all out elections and new ward boundaries.

#### **4.2 Financial Implications**

There are no direct and immediate financial implications of this report. During 2017/18 it is proposed to pilot and test a variety of approaches to Ward Action Co-ordinators. The detail, scale and pace of the introduction of the pilot will be determined by a separate report to this Committee in September.

There is no financial provision in the approved budget for 2017/18 and the current future financial plans of the Council – should the future model require investment this will need to be considered as part of the process to set the Council's Budget for 2018/19 and future years.

#### **4.3 Legal Implications**

There are no direct legal implications of this report.

#### **4.4 Public Sector Equality Duty**

Policies developed by the Committee are subject to the public sector Equality Duty and impact assessments will be carried out as appropriate as part of the Action Plan.

**5. Relevant background/chronology of key events:**

- 5.1 The report to Cabinet establishing this Committee and the role of Assistant Leaders set out the broad direction of change in the evolution of devolution and the development of local leadership. Stage 2 of the process (up to May 2018) would include a transition from the previous district arrangements to a ward based approach. It would also include a more flexible and outcome based approach to working across broader areas of the city below the city level.
- 5.2 The Assistant Leaders have undertaken extensive consultation with councillors of all parties and other local stakeholders. Their broad findings were presented to the Committee in April 2017 and since then more detailed work has been carried out by officers to identify practical next steps.

**6. Evaluation of alternative option(s):**

- 6.1 The shift away from the district arrangements has been a settled policy position for some time and the alternative of keeping those arrangements is no longer financially viable. The establishment of pilot arrangements for ward level working is designed to test out this way of working. There will be flexibility for each local pilot to adopt slightly different tools and techniques in order to maximise learning.

**7. Reasons for Decision(s):**

- 7.1 To give authority to the Assistant Leaders and relevant officers to proceed with further work on the initiatives described in this report and to authorise the preparation of detailed amendments to the City Council's Constitution for submission to the full council.

**Signatures**

**Date**

Cllr John Clancy  
Leader of the City Council

*J. Clancy* ..... 14/7/2017 .....

Jacqui Kennedy  
Corporate Director – Place

*J. Kennedy* ..... 14/7/17 .....

**List of Background Documents used to compile this Report:**

**Report Version**

**Dated**