

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.

Localisation Delivery Plan

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

Green = in progress

Red = delayed

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policy	what	Current activity	Next steps	Lead officer	2020/21			2021/22				Status
					Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
BCNs	Wider ownership of localisation through cross cutting Board/Programme. /Steering Group To shift BCC role from 'gatekeeper' to 'enabler and facilitator'.	Star chambers seeking to embed this approach across directorates	Asset Based Community Development Training to be offered across council Steer to be taken from corporate work on Prevention and Community Participation	Chris J Karen C								Initial phase complete. Further phases to be considered
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 Dec. 21		Karen C								Complete
WTiBNs	Pioneer Places	Key portfolios/services have engaged with Pioneer Places. Director of Inclusive Growth, Chief Executive, Cllr O'Shea, AD for Street Scene, Cllr Thompson and AD for Neighbourhoods have met Pioneer Places in the "Speak Truth to Power" sessions.	Any others key portfolios/services to be identified. Further sessions to be organised from Sept. 21	Karen C								
WTiBNs	Pioneer Places	360 review complete Pioneer Places have done short videos of successes and future asks	Write report on learning from Pioneer Places - what have they influenced. Commissioned story/videos on successes and asks from PP – to be	Karen C								

policy	what	Current activity	Next steps	Lead officer	2020/21			2021/22				Status
					Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
			completed by end of Sep21									
WTiBNs	Pioneer Places		Decision on whether to add further pioneer places	Karen C								
WTiBNs BCNs	Capacity building and support for target groups	Further Locality members have been added and enhanced memberships also added.		Karen C								complete
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	BCM and Locality supporting organisations in 30 designated wards on being grant read. Additional NDSU £102k resource to set up new small grants scheme in qtr2/3	Issue infrastructure support grants for smaller, emerging and newly established community groups (£10k) Small Grants scheme focussed on community recovery to be established	NDSU								
CRRR	Capacity building and support for target groups	BCM and Locality supporting organisations in 30 designated wards on being grant ready Additional NDSU £102k resource to set up new small grants scheme in qtr2/3	Infrastructure support grants for Black and Minority Ethnic led community groups (£10k)	NDSU								
WTiBN's	Capacity building and support for target groups	BCM and Locality supporting organisations in 30 designated wards on being grant ready. 9/10 anchor organisations to support	Grants to develop community anchor networks in targeted neighbourhoods – proposals to include	NDSU								

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					2020/21			2021/22				
policy	what	Current activity	Next steps	Lead officer	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Status
		Process for determining ACV re-established (cabinet July 2020) Workshops held with Bham Community Matters / community groups on ACV process -										
WTiBNs	Neighbourhood Network Services	Wider approach to NNS being considered by Whole Life Course Board. Pilot to be launched in 2022 to include younger adults		Kal K								complete
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. Bid submitted NDSU/Planning to Govt for pilot on Neighbourhood Planning (outcome expected Sept 21)		Chris J Rebecca F Doug L								Complete
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 Policy Paper on 'process for creating new parish councils' agreed by cabinet Appointed officer into the NDSU team to lead, to continue to provide support to		Chris J								complete

policy	what	Current activity	Next steps	Lead officer	2020/21			2021/22				Status
					Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
		this policy.										
WTiBNs	External Funding Support	PINCh cross organisation funding network established. Joint work with WM funders to set up a funding webinar 10-2-21 NDSU team member appointed 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 CSDO - external funding 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 NDSU officer								
WTiBNs	Local Funding	Meeting held regarding community lottery	Following lottery staffing changes consider funding options for a new local	Chris J Karen C								

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					Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
CRRR	Locally focussed procurement	Initial scoping paper considering 5 principles for 'keep it local' has been produced. Workshop took place cross directorate on 17 th March.	Review and if appropriate adopt the 'Keep it local' campaign. Endorsing the Keep it Local principles at cabinet.	Haydn B & NDSU								
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 went to Cabinet Member and Pioneer places.	Varun Sitaram Naomi Todd NDSU								
Budget	Recognising the positive work of the VCSE sector		Annual Localisation Week	NDSU communications								