

CABINET 27 NOVEMBER 2012

CABINET MEMBER RESPONSE TO THE COMMUNITIES SELECT COMMITTEE WITH REGARD TO THE PUBLIC VALUE REVIEW (PVR) OF COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

The Cabinet Member for Community Services and the 2012 Games is pleased to note that the Communities Select Committee generally welcomed the PVR's recommendations and felt that the review had been informed by effective consultation with Members and other stakeholders.

In response to the specific recommendations made by the Communities Select Committee:

Recommendation 1: That now the Community Partnership PVR has concluded, promised discussions (from the April 2012 Cabinet meeting which considered the Localism Task Group report), are initiated between the portfolio holder, the Chairman of the Select Committee and officers to enable the Task Group recommendations also to be taken forward.

The Cabinet Member is grateful for the work of Steve Cosser and the other members of the Localism Task Group, Eber Kington, Sally Marks and John Orrick which has informed the recommendations in the final PVR report.

The Cabinet Member has committed to work with the Local Committee Chairmen and would also be pleased to work with the Chairman of the Select Committee and officers to take the PVR's recommendations forward.

Recommendation 2: The importance of retaining the flexibility of the Local Committee structures as outlined in the PVR Report is taken forward and supported.

The Cabinet Member agrees that it is important to recognise the need for some local differences between each Local Committee. The Cabinet Member believes that the recommendations made in the PVR report have created a flexible framework which will allow each Local Committee to operate in a way which best suits local need whilst, ensuring processes remain efficient and offer value for money.

Recommendation 3: That discussions are facilitated with District and Borough partners to consider which of their services and resources could come under the umbrella of the Local Committees with a view to promoting a more unified local approach.

The Cabinet Member agrees that it is very important to continue to work together with our partners in the Districts and Boroughs to deliver the best possible outcomes for residents.

The decision to pass functions to the Local Committee would clearly be a matter for each District and Borough to consider individually. During the course of the PVR there was some interest expressed in pooling resources and sharing more decisions to achieve improved outcomes for residents.

If the desire to share functions becomes stronger the Council may wish to consider Joint Committees as a model, as recommended in the PVR report. Adoption of a Joint Committee model would allow the Local Committee to consider both County and District and Borough functions.

Recommendation 4: That further consideration should be given to the resources available to Local Committees, particularly around communications and media, for example through release of resource from the centre or as part of the One Team Review of Communications.

The Cabinet Member agrees that improving communications with local residents, businesses and partners is a vital part of supporting Members in their role as community leaders and champions.

The PVR's recommendation to implement an e-communication strategy, based upon the recommendation in the Localism Task Group Report, will support councillors in doing this. Improving local communications will also be considered as part of the 'One Team Review' of Communications.

In addition, the efficiency recommendations made in this report and the improvements to local web pages will enable the Community Partnership team to spend more time supporting local engagement activity.

The Cabinet Member thanks the Communities Localism Task Group's work and contribution to the PVR report.

**Helyn Clack
Cabinet Member for Community Services and the 2012 Games
27 November 2012**