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New Somerset Council

LGR Implementation Board 20 December 2022



Local Community Networks (LCN) Development Next Steps

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Purpose of the report and key points for discussion:

- Note the recommendations agreed by Executive on 16 November 2022 in relation to the Local Community Network Consultation Review paper
- In particular to note the associated principles that were agreed by Executive, to inform the ongoing development of LCNs
- To consider, comment and advise on the current and proposed actions to deliver the recommendations

LCN Consultation Review Report

- LCN consultation and engagement exercise closed in late October
- Paper prepared for Executive Board 16 November 2022
- Paper comprised:
 - Summary of the consultation findings
 - Interim review of the LCN pilots
 - Comparison of locality working arrangements in other Unitary areas
 - Themes and lines of further enquiry drawn out from the above

Executive's Resolutions

1. Note the key findings from the recent LCN consultation and engagement activities, alongside the learning from the LCN Pilots and other Unitary areas ' locality arrangements.
2. Consider and comment on the conclusions, proposals and further lines of enquiry arising.
3. Endorse the establishment of LCNs as a vehicle for bringing together and focussing the community development and engagement activity in the new Council.
4. Note and support the rationale for further work and dialogue to be undertaken before a recommendation is made on LCN geographical boundaries.
5. Agree a specific set of principles that will inform this work (detailed on next slide)
6. Agree to receive a further paper in January 2023 on the outcomes of the further work, including reasoned recommendations for LCN roles and geographies.
7. Note that an additional funding request of up to £900,000 has been submitted for consideration through the MTFP process, to enable the resourcing of LCN arrangements from Vesting Day.

Principles agreed by Executive

- 1. Respect the rurality of Somerset and find ways to work with differences between rural / urban priorities within an LCN area, and across LCN boundaries*
- 2. Respect the diversity of Somerset's landscape character*
- 3. Work across Somerset to better align with the Integrated Care System and other partners recognising the benefits of partnership working*
- 4. Observe town and parish boundaries*
- 5. Consider unitary division boundaries*
- 6. Consider equalities implications.*

Next Steps in LCN Development – Function and Form

- Mapping exercise to overlay town, city and parish boundaries with unitary divisions, PCNs and areas where communities naturally align
- Discussions on relationship between function and geographies with:
 - Lead Members
 - Colleagues in Adults' and Children's Services
 - Partners including NHS and VCSE
- Desired outcomes:
 - Further clarity on how LCNs can support ICS and how we work with other partners on a locality basis
 - Recommended proposal for LCN geographies for 'day 1'

Next Steps in LCN Development – Governance

Work with colleagues to ensure governance arrangements that:

- enable rural and urban focussed sub-groups to be established within LCN areas, to support the development of specific local priorities for urban and rural areas
- are robust enough to ensure credibility and also minimise bureaucracy that could potentially hamper community involvement in LCNs
- Focus on consensus building
- Are consistent yet high level and flexible, to enable LCNs to evolve and to reflect differing local circumstances

Next Steps in LCN Development – Resourcing

- Fully understand the scope of current community development and engagement activity across the five councils. Including areas of good practice that need to be supported through transition.
- Commence a review of existing community development and engagement spend across the five councils to understand what might be repurposed to support LCNs. Provide position statement as part of January Executive paper

Next Steps in LCN Development

- Prepare a paper for Executive in January 2023 that is the culmination of all of the above activities.
- Prepare a detailed Equality Impact Assessment to support the paper
- Develop a communications plan to ensure ongoing engagement with partners and stakeholders throughout the coming months

Next Steps in LCN Development

Questions and Discussion