

Decision Report – Strategic Planning



Decision Date – 14 September 2023

Key Decision – No

Local Community Networks Core Membership

Executive Member(s): Councillor Theo Butt Philip, Executive Lead Member for Transformation and Human Resources

Local Member(s) and Division: all

Lead Officer: Sara Skirton, Service Director for Partnerships and Localities

Author: Kate Hellard, LCN Development Lead and Sara Skirton, Service Director for Partnerships and Localities

Contact Details: Kate.Hellard@somerset.gov.uk and Sara.Skirton@somerset.gov.uk

1. Summary / Background

1.1 This paper follows from the Lead Member Non-Key Decision taken in July 2023 determining the initial composition of the core membership for the 18 new Local Community Network (LCNs).

1.2 This paper confirms further decisions of the Executive Lead Member for Transformation and Human Resources, following consideration of requests from some LCNs to make changes to their core membership.

1.3 These LCNs are:

- Exmoor
- Bridgwater
- Wells and Rural
- Cheddar and Axbridge

1.4 The purpose of LCNs, as agreed by the Executive on 18 January 2023 and 27 February 2023, is as follows:

To be the focus for community development, engagement and partnership working at a local level; improving outcomes for residents and establishing strong connections between the Council, our communities and our partners.

1.5 The Terms of Reference (ToR) state core membership will comprise the following:

- 1) The elected Somerset Council Councillors representing the electoral divisions covered by the Local Community Network;
 - 2) A member from each City, Town or Parish Council and Parish Meeting within the area covered by the Local Community Network;
 - 3) Representatives from the following groups or organisations:
 - a) Local Neighbourhood policing team;
 - b) Somerset National Health Service
 - c) Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service;
 - d) Education
 - e) Representatives from Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise Organisations
 - f) Representatives from Businesses or Trade Groups
 - g) Others as may be considered locally important
- 1.6 In terms of approving the actual Core Membership for each LCN, the Terms of Reference state that:
- 5.2 The Executive Lead Member for Transformation and Human Resources will approve the core membership of each LCN. Each LCN will review their core membership at their first Annual Meeting and then at least annually and make any recommendations for changes to the Executive Lead Member for Transformation and Human Resources. The core membership list will be classed as the voting members of the Local Community Network*
- 1.7. LCN meetings commenced in June 2023. Prior to each meeting, work has been undertaken, through engagement with Councillors and partners, to identify organisations, in addition to those specifically named in the ToR, that could form part of the core membership. It should be noted that it is for those organisations to nominate their representatives.
- 1.8 As LCNs are in their infancy, it is recognised that it will take time for the full range of organisations that could form the core membership to be identified and engaged. This membership will need to evolve over time and could well change, to reflect local circumstances and priorities.

1.9 Additional stakeholders within the LCN areas are being identified as part of the engagement and development process and as themes and priorities for LCNs emerge. It is expected therefore that core membership will not remain static.

2. Recommendations

2.1 That the Executive Lead Member for Transformation and Human Resources agrees that:

- i) Changes be made to the core membership of the following LCNs as highlighted in Appendix 1 to the report:
 - Exmoor
 - Bridgwater
 - Wells and Rural
 - Cheddar and Axbridge

3. Reasons for recommendations

3.1 The reason for this paper is to update the core membership of a number of LCNs in line with the second round of LCN meetings.

4. Other options considered

4.1. One option considered and initially pursued was to review attendance at each LCN meeting to consider whether those present represented organisations that could be considered Core Members, and therefore eligible to vote should a vote be required. However, this does not comply with the ToRs, and is not practicable as it requires the decision maker to be present at each LCN meeting.

5. Links to Council Plan and Medium-Term Financial Plan

5.1 This recommendation has no impact on the MTFP. LCNs are referenced in the Council Plan.

6. Financial and Risk Implications

6.1. This recommendation has no financial risk.

6.2 There is the potential for stakeholder dissatisfaction and reputational risk if LCN Core Membership is not clear at any given point. This report seeks to mitigate

these risks while recognising that LCN Core Membership needs to be flexible and will evolve other time.

7. Legal Implications

7.1. Local Community Networks form part of the Council's governance arrangements, and are constituted as area boards. Their Terms of Reference are included in the Council's Constitution.

8. HR Implications

8.1. There are no HR implications associated with this report.

Other Implications:

9. Equalities Implications

9.1. There are no Equalities implications as a direct result of this report. The creation of LCNs provides an opportunity to work with communities to address inequalities including through ensuring that core membership is inclusive and representative of local communities.

10. Community Safety Implications

10.1 There are no Community Safety Implications associated with this report.

11. Climate Change and Sustainability Implications

11.1 There are no Climate Change and Sustainability implications directly associated with this report.

Health and Safety Implications

11.2 There are no Health and Safety implications associated with this report.

Health and Wellbeing Implications

11.3. An inclusive approach to core membership of the LCNs will support a focus on improving health and wellbeing in the LCN area.

12. Social Value

12.1 There are no direct social value implications arising from this report.

13. Scrutiny comments / recommendations:

13.1 The proposed decision has not been considered by a Scrutiny Committee.

Background Papers

Local Community Networks Terms of Reference

<https://www.somerset.gov.uk/local-community-networks/terms-of-reference/>

Appendices

Appendix 1 List of changes to Core Membership of the following LCNs:

Exmoor

Bridgwater

Report Sign-Off (if appropriate)

	Officer Name	Date Completed
Legal & Governance Implications	David Clark	13.09.2023
Communications	Chris Palmer	N/A
Finance & Procurement	Nicola Hix	N/A
Workforce	Chris Squire	N/A
Asset Management	Oliver Woodhams	N/A
Executive Director / Senior Manager	Alyn Jones	13.09.2023
Strategy & Performance	Sara Cretney	N/A
Executive Lead Member	Cllr Theo Butt Philip	13.09.2023
Consulted:	Cllr Val Keitch	31.08.2023
Local Division Members		
Opposition Spokesperson	Cllr Faye Purbrick	Sent
Scrutiny Chair	Cllr Bob Filmer	Sent