

# CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

## Cabinet

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**Date of meeting:** 17 February 2009  
**Report of:** Partnerships Workstream, Performance & Capacity Block  
**Title:** DEVELOPMENT OF PARTNERSHIP ARRANGEMENTS IN CHESHIRE EAST

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### **1.0 Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To seek endorsement for the work that has been done on the development of partnership arrangements in Cheshire East and, in particular, the establishment of an LSP Executive Board and the agreement of boundaries for the Local Area Partnerships.

### **2.0 Decision Required**

- 2.1 To agree the following:

(a) to note the establishment of an LSP Executive Board for Cheshire East comprising key statutory agencies and service providers

(b) the Council be represented on the Executive Board by the Chief Executive with the Leader acting as chairman of the Board and portfolio holder attending as an observer

(c) to note the position regarding the establishment of a thematic partnership structure supporting the Executive Board

(d) to note the establishment of seven Local Area Partnerships based on the boundaries shown in the Appendix.

(e) to endorse the development of implementation arrangements for each Partnership to include terms of reference, membership etc

(e) note the development of neighbourhood projects which will form the subject of a further report to Cabinet

### **3.0 Financial Implications for Transition Costs**

- 3.1 None identified

### **4.0 Financial Implications 2009/10 and beyond**

- 4.1 There will be cost implications for the development of strategic partnership working. However, the scale of such costs and time at which they will be incurred will be determined by the arrangements adopted.

## **5.0 Risk Assessment**

- 5.1 Local Strategic Partnerships are at the heart of the government's agenda for strong, safe and prosperous communities with their key roles in the formulation of Sustainable Community Strategies and Local Area Agreements. In assessing the success of the LGR transition and implementation of the principles underpinning the successful bid, CLG will pay particular attention to this aspect of work.

## **6.0 "Creating Strong, Safe and Prosperous Communities" - Local Strategic Partnerships**

- 6.1 Whilst LSPs are not statutory bodies, they have become increasingly important in providing a forum for collectively reviewing and steering public resources, agreeing shared Sustainable Community Strategies and overseeing the Local Area Agreement process. Their importance was restated in the recent Statutory Guidance on "Creating Strong, Safe and Prosperous Communities".
- 6.2 The role of an LSP is set out in the Guidance as being as follows:
- Exercise a leadership and governing role through identifying and articulating the needs and aspirations of local communities
  - Have oversight of and co-ordinate community consultation and engagement activities of individual partners, where appropriate
  - Produce a Sustainable Community Strategy
  - Produce a Local Area Agreement
  - Have oversight of the planning and alignment of resources
  - Review and performance manage progress

## **7.0 Establishing a Local Strategic Partnership Executive Board for Cheshire East**

- 7.1 As a first stage in the process, the Leader and Chief Executive met representatives from Cheshire Constabulary, Cheshire Fire & Rescue Service and Central & East Cheshire Primary Care Trust. As a result of these discussions it was agreed to establish an executive board which would have the responsibility for further developing partnership working arrangements, both at a strategic and local level. It was also agreed to broaden the membership to include representatives from the third sector, business, housing and education. An initial meeting was convened on 2<sup>nd</sup> February.
- 7.2 Insofar as Cheshire East Council representation is concerned, this initial meeting recommended that the Council be represented by the Chief Executive and that the Leader of the Council take on the

chairmanship role. In addition, Councillor David Brown, as portfolio holder, to be invited to attend as an observer. The Cabinet is asked to agree to these arrangements.

## **8.0 Thematic Partnerships**

- 8.1 The Statutory Guidance states that in order to ensure the effective delivery of agreed priorities, there should be thematic partnerships which underpin and support the Executive Board of the LSP. To help inform the thematic structure for Cheshire East, a major stakeholder event was held on 26<sup>th</sup> January at Tatton Park. The purpose of the event was to identify the key issues facing the new unitary area over the next ten years and consider how those issues might best be tackled through partnership working. As a result of this event, it was suggested that three permanent themed blocks be established covering economic, environmental and social issues with a number of task and finish groups. The Executive Board has established a small sub group to investigate the feasibility of this approach. This sub group hopes to be in a position to make a recommendation to the Executive Board in March and this will inform the further development of the thematic structure, although work is already underway in many of the themed areas.

## **9.0 Establishment of Local Area Partnerships**

- 9.1 Members will recall that, in October 2008, a report was agreed which established principles which would be used for the development of local working both at an area and neighbourhood level. The development of a series of Local Area Partnerships was also agreed (with draft terms of reference). Officers were tasked to discuss the number and boundaries for the Partnership area with partners and local councils.
- 9.2 Since October, the cross party Member Advisory Group has met to consider the possible boundaries and, as a result, an option was produced for eight Local Area Partnerships, which has been the basis of a series of stakeholder events in January. This option was based on Middle Layer Super Output Areas to better enable data collection and disaggregation.
- 9.3 Feedback from the January round of events has now been received and analysed. As a result, a revised map has been produced (appended). Whilst it does not totally follow MSOA boundaries, this option was favoured and subsequently agreed by the Local Strategic Partnership Executive Board
- 9.4 It is likely that the membership of the Local Area Partnerships will evolve over time and will be different for different areas. This, and the finalisation of terms of reference and working arrangements will now be

the subject of more detailed discussion and will form the basis of a further report to Members.

## **10.0 Next Steps**

- 10.1 The LSP Executive is due to meet again in March. In addition to determining a thematic structure, it is likely that the agenda will feature an item on how a new Sustainable Community Strategy is to be produced and how it will link to the Local Development Framework. Over the coming months the Executive and its thematic groups, once established, are likely to have a heavy workload during this developmental time.
- 10.2 As regards the Local Area Partnerships, it is now for the individual partner agencies to confirm their agreement. Further detailed work can then begin with partners and others to work on an implementation plan for each Partnership.
- 10.3 In addition, Members will be aware that four neighbourhood projects have been suggested at Knutsford, Poynton, Crewe and Bromley Farm. These projects will help evaluate how different ways of working at a neighbourhood level will integrate with Local Area Partnerships. These projects are in the process of being scoped and will form the basis of a further report to Cabinet in the near future.

## **11.0 Options**

- 10.1 The LSP Executive Board considered the detailed information which resulted from the series of stakeholder events held in January.

## **12.0 Reasons for Recommendation**

- 11.1 The Shadow Authority needs to put in place arrangements to demonstrate how it will meet the People and Places bid commitments and ensure there are mechanisms in place to enable Cheshire East Council to respond to the needs and priorities expressed by local communities.

### ***For further information:***

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### ***Background Documents:***

*Creating Strong, Safe and Prosperous Communities – DCLG Guidance  
Cabinet Report – October, 2008*

*Documents are available for inspection at Westfields, Sandbach:*