

Taunton Deane Borough Council

Executive – 28 April 2010

Community Engagement

Report by Kevin Toller, Strategic Director

(This matter is the responsibility of Executive Councillor Alan Wedderkopp)

Executive Summary

This report proposes that the previous Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) Community Partnerships are formally disbanded and that future community engagement meetings are held through the Partnerships and Communities Together (PACT) process.

1 Purpose

- 1.1 The LSP has reviewed its approach to community engagement and has proposed disbanding the Community Partnerships, undertaking future engagement through the PACT process led by the Police Authority.

2 Background

- 2.1 The aim of community engagement is to build trust and confidence by dealing with those issues that have the most impact – by affording communities access, influence, actions and answers. It involves communities and partners working together to bring about change by identifying and meeting the community's diverse needs.
- 2.2 In 2007 the Taunton Deane LSP established 4 Community Partnerships to provide a focal point for community engagement by partners. These Community Partnership meetings ran for around a year before being indefinitely postponed in December 2008.
- 2.3 Since that time, in many parts of the Borough, the Partners and Communities Together (PACT) scheme led by the Police, has become established as a method of gaining community engagement.
- 2.4 The application of these PACT meetings varies across the TDBC area, and at this time there are in excess of 50 Community, Business, and Partner meetings titled under PACT.
- 2.5 Partners are already very welcome to join PACT meetings, and in a small number of cases have done so; however this is generally an exception. It is recognised by the Police that the current number of 'PACT' meetings inhibits this, and presents a challenge to them also.

The Police also recognise that the inclusion and engagement of Partners provides a greatly increased and improved response to Communities, and builds high levels of confidence and satisfaction in all agencies across the area.

- 2.6 Having reviewed the previous Community Partnerships, now seems an appropriate time to formally bring the two together under the PACT banner, and determine an agreed, achievable and appropriate level of engagement by each Partner. By doing so, each partner is able to use the meetings for community engagement, whilst at the same time reducing the resource impact of the myriad of such meetings.

3 Proposal

- 3.1 The LSP considers that 8 PACTs would be sufficient to cover the Borough. These are shown on the attached map and are as follows:

- Wellington, Wiveliscombe and surrounding parishes includes Wellington, Rockwell Green and West, Wellington East, Wellington North, Monument, Wiveliscombe and West Deane, Bradford on Tone, Milverton and North Deane, Halse, Ash Priors, Combe Florey, West bagborough
- West – includes Bishops Lydeard, Staplegrove, West Monkton, Norton Fitzwarren, Bishops Hull and Trull
- East – Ruishton and Creech, North Curry and Stoke St Gregory, Neroche and Blackdown
- Comeytrove, Manor and Wilton
- Eastgate, Fairwater
- Lyngford, Pyrland and Rowbarton
- Halcon
- Blackbrook and Holway, Killams and Mountfield.

4 Practicalities

- 4.1 It is anticipated that the Police authority will organise each meeting, and will be the default chair. However, it is expected that members of the community will take on the role of chair in future.
- 4.2 Each PACT will establish its own meeting schedule – some areas may require more frequent meetings than others, and the meetings should be responsive to this need. The default frequency for nearly all areas in the Borough is quarterly.
- 4.3 The meetings will be open to the public, with specific invites being sent to parish councils (in the parished areas); Borough and County Council ward members, local PCSO's and all LSP Partners.
- 4.4 Whilst LSP Partners may not always be able to be present at all PACT meetings, each Partner will deliver their level of agreement in undertaking, resolving or attempting to resolve and providing feedback,

on issues for which they are nominated the lead agency. Issues raised which are relevant to a partner not present will be forwarded to them.

- 4.5 The meetings will be asked to identify what they believe to be the top issues of concern in the local area. The top issues will then form the priorities for the LSP Partners in that area, and will normally not exceed 3. The panel of Partners, in consultation with the community present, will nominate a lead agency for each Priority. No agency should normally lead on more than 1 priority each period
- 4.6 The lead agency will be responsible for feeding back to the community and the next PACT meeting to an agreed level.
- 4.7 TDBC will provide senior officer support to each PACT meeting – either a Director or Theme Manager, together with other support as necessary.

5 Recommendation

- 5.1 The Executive is recommended to endorse the formal adoption of 8 PACTs across the Borough and for TDBC to commit to supporting these meetings.

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Taunton Deane Partners and Communities Together (P.A.C.T.)

