

Report of the Director of Environment and Sport to the meeting of Bradford South Area Committee to be held on Thursday, 28 March 2013.

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Subject:

Bradford South Ward Forums and Scheduled Neighbourhood Forums 2013-14

Summary statement:

This report informs Bradford South Area Committee about the decisions of Ward Councillors on whether to pilot Ward Forums or to continue with Scheduled Neighbourhood Forums in their Wards in 2013-14.

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Portfolio:

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Overview & Scrutiny Area:

Corporate



Suzan Hemingway, City Solicitor

1. SUMMARY

This report informs Bradford South Area Committee about the decisions of Ward Councillors on whether to pilot Ward Forums or to continue with Scheduled Neighbourhood Forums in their Wards in 2013-14.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 Bradford South Area Committee at the meeting held on 24 January 2013 considered a report Tong Ward Forum (Document AS). The pilot Tong Ward Forum was initiated to develop a more Ward focused approach to engaging communities in our planning process and identifying Ward priorities.

2.2 The development of Ward Forums requires a team approach and it is therefore not possible within the resources available to undertake both a Ward Forum and Scheduled Neighbourhood Forums in a Ward.

2.3 Single Issue Neighbourhood Forums will continue to be organised as before.

2.4 Bradford South Area Committee was keen to explore the possibility of having the Ward Forum format, though acknowledged that a different approach may be required in different Wards.

2.5 The Area Committee resolved:

(1) That the success of the Tong Ward Forum be noted.

(2) That the Area Coordinator liaises with Ward Councillors on the format of Neighbourhood and Ward Forums for the 2013/2014 municipal year and reports back on the outcomes of these discussions to the March meeting of this Area Committee.

2.6 Ward Officers have liaised with Ward Councillors and the Ward responses are as follows:

Great Horton will pilot a Ward Forum.

Queensbury Ward will pilot a Ward Forum.

Royds Ward will continue to hold Neighbourhood Forums in 2013-14. The Buttershaw and Wibsey South West Neighbourhood Forums are to be amalgamated as are the Woodside and Low Moor Neighbourhood Forums.

Tong Ward, following the success of their pilot, hold a Ward Forum.

Wibsey Ward will hold Neighbourhood Forums in 2013-14 with a view to piloting a Ward Forum in 2014-15. In preparation, in 2013-14, the Wibsey & Odsal and Wibsey & Odsal Neighbourhood Forums will be amalgamated and further developed to engage a wider community. The Bankfoot Neighbourhood Forum will

be further developed to engage with communities on both sides of Manchester Road.

Wyke Ward will pilot a Ward Forum. The Oakenshaw Neighbourhood Forum, as it is jointly organised with Kirklees MDC, is an exception and will continue to be held.

3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

3.1. There are no "Other Considerations"

4. OPTIONS

- 4.1 That Bradford South Area Committee adopts the recommendations outlined in this report.
- 4.2 That Bradford South Area Committee adopts the recommendations outlined in this report, with amendments.
- 4.3 That Bradford South Area Committee decides not to accept the recommendations outlined in this report.

5. FINANCIAL & RESOURCE APPRAISAL

5.1 Financial

Ward Forums or Neighbourhood Forums will be resourced in each Ward from within existing resources.

5.2 Staffing

Support will be provided from within the existing resources of the Neighbourhood Service, other Council Services and partners. The development of a mixed approach to Ward Forums and Scheduled Neighbourhood Forums across Bradford South will require detailed planning to ensure that staff resources are balanced.

6. RISK MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES

There are no significant risks arising out of the proposed recommendations in this report.

7. LEGAL APPRAISAL

This work relates directly to the Local Government Act 2000 and to the Duty of Well-being placed upon the Council to promote and improve the well-being of the District.

8. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

8.1 EQUALITY & DIVERSITY

For both Ward Forums and Neighbourhood Forums consideration is given to ensuring accessibility for particular disadvantaged groups including the elderly, people with disabilities, youth, ethnic minorities and people who are unemployed.

8.2 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Ward Forums will assist in enabling community issues and solutions to inform the Ward, Area and Service planning process. This will enable activities and service improvements to support the social, economic and environmental well being of communities. The continuation of Neighbourhood Forums will enable community issues to be addressed thus supporting the sustainability of that neighbourhood.

8.3 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IMPACTS

Greenhouse gas emissions and wider environmental impacts will be a consideration in assessing community issues and solutions which inform the Ward, Area and Service planning process.

8.4 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

8.4.1 Community safety issues are acknowledged as a key contributor to the quality of life in neighbourhoods. It is anticipated that improvements to the Ward, Area and Service planning process will have a positive impact on community safety issues across Bradford South.

8.4.2 A key aspect of this work relates to supporting the Safer Communities Strategy, the Council's obligations under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Reduction Act 1998 and the work of the Safer Communities Partnership.

8.5 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT

8.5.1 No direct implications arising from the Human Rights Act.

8.6 TRADE UNION

8.6.1 No direct Trade Union implications arise from this report.

8.7 WARD IMPLICATIONS

8.7.1 Ward Forums, being a development of Neighbourhood Forums, will help inform the Ward, Area and Service planning process.

8.8 AREA COMMITTEE ACTION PLAN IMPLICATIONS (for reports to Area Committees only)

8.8.1 Ward Forums will assist in the development of priorities for the Ward Plans and consequently the Bradford South Area Committee Action Plan 2011-14.

9. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS

None.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 The report be noted.

11. APPENDICES

None

12. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

“Tong Ward Forum” (Document AS), Report to Bradford South Area Committee, 24 January 2013.