

Report of the Strategic Director of the Department of Place to the meeting of Keighley Area Committee to be held on 23rd December 2021

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Subject:

Strengthening Locality Working

Summary statement:

The Council, working with partner agencies, is developing a new approach to Locality Working. This report outlines the District wide approach emerging from pilot work undertaken in the Keighley Area and gives an update on the progress being made towards the development of a Keighley Locality Plan and associated Ward Plans for 2022-25.

EQUALITY & DIVERSITY:

The implementation of the new approach to Locality Working in the Keighley Area will include an Engagement Plan which will set out how the voices of all communities in the Area are heard. This will include specific targeting, to ensure the views of minority groups who are seldom heard are engaged in the process.

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Portfolio:

Safer and Stronger Communities

Overview & Scrutiny Area:

Corporate

1. SUMMARY

The Council, working with partner agencies, is developing a new approach to Locality Working. This report outlines the District wide approach emerging from pilot work undertaken in the Keighley Area and gives an update on the progress being made towards the development of a Keighley Locality Plan and associated Ward Plans for 2022-25.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The vision for the Strengthening Locality Working approach is to build safe, strong and active localities where citizens and local leaders are empowered to work alongside public agencies and partners to address local needs and issues. Working collaboratively and creatively, they utilise local assets, resources and opportunities to enhance community capacity and tackle inequalities. People are at the heart of service design and delivery, and experience coordinated support within their localities and only need to tell their story once. A stronger focus on prevention and early help promotes better outcomes for local people and helps reduce the need for statutory interventions wherever possible.
- 2.2 To achieve the vision the project advocates a stronger role for Bradford Council and its partners as a leader and place shaper, aligning delivery and resources, renewing emphasis on the role of Area Committees and supporting local councillors in their capacity as democratic champions.
- 2.3 The development of this approach commenced with some pilot work in Keighley and Bradford West Areas, where lessons learned will be incorporated as part of a test and learn process, prior to a Council roll out from April 2022 across all five constituencies.
- 2.4 The project will see the strengthening of resource and capability within the Neighbourhood Service, including the recruitment of 15 Assistant Ward Officers and five Stronger Communities Engagement Officers and a broadening of the role and influence of Area Co-ordinators as convenors of place.
- 2.5 This work is underpinned by developing arrangements for a Council-wide locality approach to prevention and early help that promotes collaboration between Council colleagues (and then with wider partners) to better support individuals, families and communities across the District. By prevention we mean, preventing or delaying problems from arising in the first place so that everyone across the Bradford District – whatever locality they come from – can live a long, healthy, and full life. In turn, Early Help is about tackling problems head-on when they emerge, intervening early before problems escalate. At the heart of both Prevention and Early Help is a constant focus on **what's strong, not what's wrong**. We work closely with communities to make the most of their assets, resources and opportunities, empowering citizens and local leaders to work alongside public agencies and partners to address local needs in a collaborative and creative way.

2.6 Delivered well, the project will:

- Increase organisational resilience through a common understanding and approach to locality working
- Evidence outcomes delivered against the Council and District plan priorities
- Promote community capacity and improve outcomes to be delivered for communities
- Reduce inequalities and improve access to support for individuals and communities
- Allow individuals and communities to access multi-disciplinary early help that ultimately prevents/reduces/delays the need for intervention by statutory services

2.7 In the Keighley Area the pilot work included:

- combining the Area Leadership Team – a partnership of representatives from statutory agencies and voluntary and community sector organisations (and also including the Chair of Keighley Area Committee) - with the Airedale Community Partnership (led by the Airedale, Wharfedale & Craven Clinical Commissioning Group) to form the Keighley Area Community Partnership – a single, cross-constituency partnership focused on the development of prevention and early help
- delivery of Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) training sessions for people involved in these partnerships
- the setting up of an All Age Multi Agency Panel where complex or protracted cases that would benefit from a preventative, early help approach can be referred for consideration by representatives from organisations providing services to the community
- a ‘Priority Setting Workshop’ held on-line in July (to which all Keighley Area Bradford Council members were invited) to consider the insights gained from the data profile for the Area (Appendix A) and begin to develop a set of emerging priorities that will form the basis of the Keighley Locality Plan 2022-25 (see Appendix B)

2.8 Since July, at two further meetings of the Keighley Area Community Partnership, work has been done to further develop the priorities in the draft Locality Plan and to gain inter agency support and ownership of the themes that are emerging and action that could be taken to address them.

2.9 The Partnership has asked the Keighley Area Co-ordinator to share this on-going work with the Bradford Council members representing the Keighley Area to gain their insights, perspectives and comments, and hopefully support, for the process of Locality Planning and the priorities that are emerging. Further Briefing Sessions for members will be arranged in January and February 2021.

2.10 The Keighley Area Committee will be asked to approve the Keighley Locality Plan at its meeting to be held on 16 March 2022. As the linked Ward Plans are dependent on the priorities set in the Locality Plan, they will take more time to develop and be underpinned by further community engagement work. Therefore,

they will be presented to the Keighley Area Committee for approval at its meeting to be held in June 2022.

3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 Appendix A is the data that has been made available to help with the process of setting Area priorities. There are plans at the District level to enhance this dataset and therefore in the spring the Area is likely to have a broader set of data to work with. The available statistical data provides some areas that require further investigation and further insights will be able to be made when an enhanced dataset is available.
- 3.2 The Partnership accepts that its approach to Locality Planning would benefit from further community engagement; listening to communities and finding out from residents what they feel is going well and their ideas on what could be done better. Therefore, starting in January 2022 Ward Officers will be leading a programme of community engagement which will include an online survey, door knocking, focus groups and discussions with existing community groups. Elected members will be encouraged to be involved in these activities.

4. FINANCIAL & RESOURCE APPRAISAL

This work falls within the current budget and resources of the Neighbourhood Service and other Council resources that are available for the Strengthening Locality Working programme.

5. RISK MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES

A key purpose of Strengthening Locality working is to reduce the demand on services.

6. LEGAL APPRAISAL

There are no known legal implications from this work.

7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

7.1 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

No known sustainability issues. One of the key themes in the Locality Plan aims to increase sustainability across the Area.

7.2 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IMPACTS

Locality approaches should reduce travel

7.3 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

Community Safety issues will be addressed within the Locality Plan

7.4 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT

No known issues.

7.5 TRADE UNION

No known issues.

7.6 WARD IMPLICATIONS

There will be positive implications for all Wards in the Keighley Area if the Strengthening Locality Working programme achieves its objectives

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

The Locality Plan 2022-25 will replace the existing Area Committee Action Plan

7.8 IMPLICATIONS FOR CORPORATE PARENTING

No known implications

7.9 ISSUES ARISING FROM PRIVACY IMPACT ASSESMENT

No known implications

8. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS

None

9. OPTIONS

9.1 That members note the Strengthening Locality Working approach and the implications of it for the Keighley Area, as detailed in this report.

9.2 That members suggest changes to the Strengthening Locality Working approach set out in this report.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 Keighley Area Committee notes the Strengthening Locality Working approach and the implications of it for the Keighley Area, as detailed in this report.

10.2 Keighley Area Committee requests that the Keighley Area Co-ordinator continues to lead on the Strengthening Locality Working approach and keeps elected members updated on progress and involved in the Locality Planning process through two Briefing Sessions to be held in January and February 2022.

11. APPENDICES

Appendix A: Keighley Area statistical data to support Locality Planning

Appendix B: Locality Plan priorities emerging from the Priority Setting Workshop held in July 2021

12. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None