

**STRONGER COMMUNITIES PARTNERSHIP BOARD
PREPARED FOR WELLBEING BOARD – 8 NOVEMBER 2022
NEW GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE**

1.0 Purpose

The purpose of this paper is to provide an overview of the proposed governance structures for the Stronger Communities Partnership board from September 2022 as part of the transition from DHLUC funding to the Council's base budget delivery.

2.0 Background

The programme funding came to an end in March 2022, however significant work has been carried out internally over the period of 2021 to ensure there is a continued support for the learning, approaches and activities delivered under the *Bradford for Everyone* programme. A recurring investment of £500,000 has been agreed by the Council to build a 'Stronger Communities Team' and to transitioning the work of the *Bradford for Everyone* Programme in to a base budget response.

- 2.1 As part of this process, the *Bradford for Everyone* Programme Lead had worked with the Stronger Communities Delivery Coordinator to redesign the staffing structure including carrying out an internal review of what can be sustained with no additional cost, can be carried forward with some investment or not at all. The review has also included mapping the core budget activities. These include managing the £750,000 annual VCS Infrastructure grant, £250,000 Community Buildings grant and recognising remembrance days such as Holocaust memorial Day and Srebrenica and ensuring there is sufficient capacity to deliver all activities including being able to implement as appropriate against the *Bradford for Everyone* strategy.
- 2.2 The Stronger Communities Partnership board was reinstated with an independent chair as a requirement from DLUHC as part of the programme. As such, a review of the Board and its governance structures have been included as part of the wider review to ensure the new governance structures are fit for purpose for the Council and to continue overseeing the work of the new established team.
- 2.3 The Stronger Communities Partnership is a 'sub-committee' of the District Wellbeing Board and as such final decisions on the governance approach has been brought to the Wellbeing Board, informed by consultation with the stronger Communities Partnership
- 2.4 The proposal of the new governance structure was shared at the June Stronger Communities Partnership board meeting, which was configured with support from a working group made up of Board and resident members with a view that a new governance structure could be in place by September 2022.

2.5 The consultation and timeline included:

- Review/consultation with resident sub-group – 25 January 2022
- Drafting of paper - March
- Consultation with the board via email - April/May
- Consultation review meeting with the Board – 13 June
- Presentation of paper at Board meeting – 14 June
- Final draft proposal discussion with Cllr Abdul Jabar - 24 June
- Final paper in discussion with Wellbeing Board- 19 July.

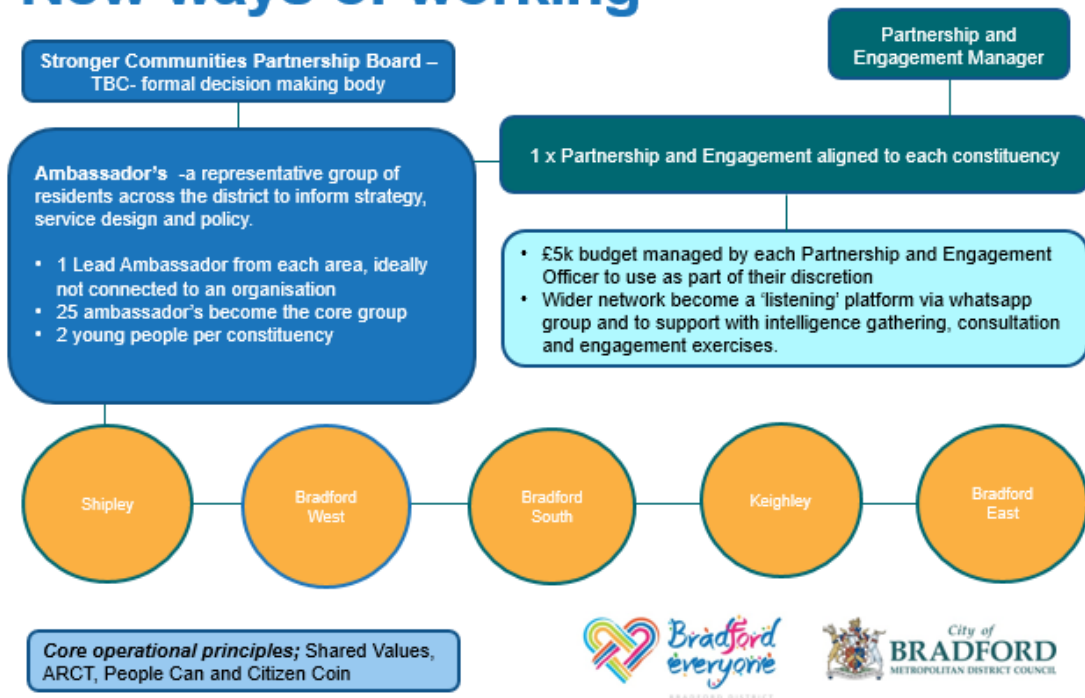
2.6 This paper reflects the final findings of the working group and asks the Wellbeing Board to consider the proposal

3 Consultation process

The Programme Lead attended a Resident Sub-group meeting to discuss initial thoughts on changes to the group. The proposal included;

- Providing high quality inductions for all Ambassadors who join with regular 're-caps' on purpose
- A review of the Ambassador role and a more streamlined overview of their role profile
- Pair with a more established Ambassador in the constituency
- Create more support and capacity within the team to support Ambassador role
- Recruit not only on geographical and demographic representation but also reach into communities we do not have access to
- Relationships with local politicians (zoom in rather than zoom out focus) and buy in from area offices including regular briefing meetings.
- Connect Ambassadors into their local area by creating WhatsApp groups for Ambassador and network members in the area.
- Strengthen the relationship with the wider network and between Ambassadors.
- A change of staff management; where each Partnership and Engagement Officer would directly support Ambassador's by constituency.
- An agreed discretionary budget of £5,000 per area for Ambassador's managed and overseen by each Partnership and Engagement Officer to utilise for activities that respond to tensions or emerging issues.
- To be specifically trained on Bridge Builders Handbook, Critical Thinking and Shared Values including identifying Ambassadors who can support low level mediation and tensions in communities.

New ways of working



Further consultation was undertaken with other members; Cllr Abdul Jabar, Bishop Toby, Pete Tate and Inspector Andrew Thornton.

- There was an agreement that the board should be tighter with limited number of places per category
- It was imperative that there was no conflict of interest where possible – for example where organisations were or will be in receipt of funding.
- The link to localities working and ensuring there is a much stronger working relationship between the area neighbourhood teams and the Stronger Communities Team via the Area Committee Chairs.

4 Governance structure

4.1 Stronger Communities Partnership Board

Currently the membership of the board is membership body of 32 people across a range of sectors which includes; housing, VCS, business, employment and education and residents. However, it is proposed that the new structure creates a much tighter structure;

| Membership | Places | Rationale | Suggested |
|------------|--------|---|------------------|
| Chair | 1 | Portfolio Holder of Neighbourhoods and Community Safety | Cllr Abdul Jabar |
| Vice-Chair | 1 | A non-council/independent is recommended | To be determined |

| | | | |
|-----------------------|---|--|--|
| Area Committee Chairs | 5 | Political involvement across the 5 constituencies and also ensures better delivery of the localities plan. | Chair of each Area Committee |
| VCS reps | 3 | Faith, Ethnic minorities and VCS infrastructure | TBD |
| Safer Communities | 1 | Work within the strategy includes Feeling Safe, this will ensure better cross working | TBD |
| Economic Partnership | 1 | Supports the work on Getting On strand | Manoj Joshi – Chair or nominated representative. |
| Health | 1 | | Collette Brauns - CCG's |
| Education | 1 | Supports the work on Getting Along strand | TBD |
| Housing | 1 | | Representative from the Housing Executive |
| Residents | 5 | Residents attend on behalf of the Resident Sub-Group that involves 2 young people. | |
| Officers | 2 | Assistant Director of Neighbourhoods and Customer Service and the Stronger Communities Head of Service. | Ian Day and Mahmood Mohammed |

4.2 Sub-groups

The resident sub-group is essentially a group of 25 residents across the district which reflect broadly our population, they do not represent people in their constituency or community, but rather the sub-group is about bringing together a diverse range of voices, who can bring their own unique perspective to the priorities outlined in the *Bradford for Everyone strategy*. The group will work with officers to co-create, co-design and co-produce services and campaigns, help us build an understanding of specific issues and problems and deliver alongside with us as equal and creative partners.

Ultimately it is about giving power to local people by ensuring they have a seat at our governing and decision making boards, play an active part in shaping services and delivery by sharing their account of their own lived experiences,

gathering soft intelligence about their place, neighbourhood or community and helping us to improve what we deliver at the local level.

This sub-group will appoint 5 representatives from the group from each constituency, of which two will be young people. The remit of the sub-group will include;

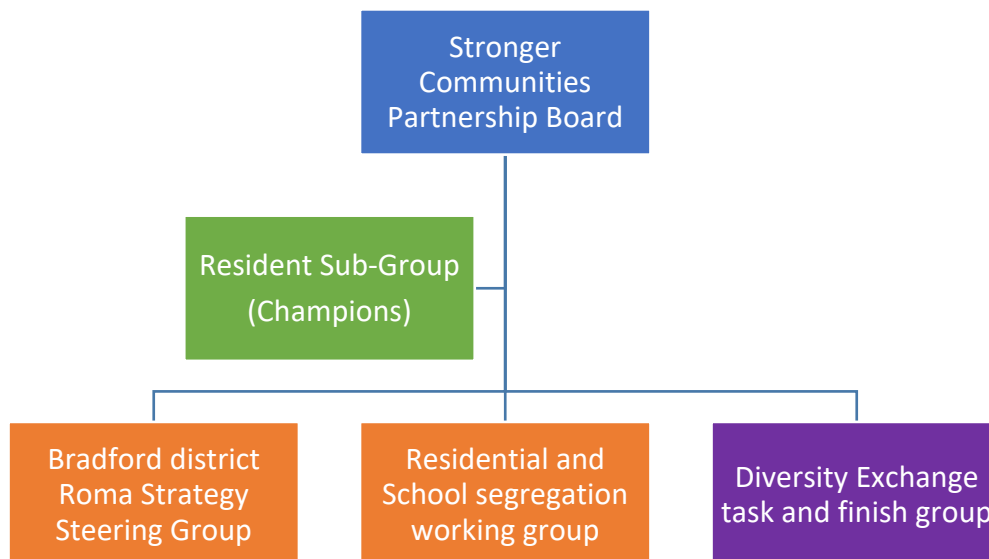
- To support with the promotion of campaigns, activities, projects and programmes delivering under the *Bradford for Everyone Strategy*,
- Support with increasing engagement of residents such as consultations, annual baseline survey and soft intelligence gathering,
- To share their unique lived experience and perspective to help inform services and delivery,
- Connect communities across their area or district and support the Partnership and Engagement Officers with any low level mediation.

Working and task and finish groups

A number of working and task and finish groups will be set up under the Sub-Groups to help advance key pieces of work which were formed under the *Bradford for Everyone* programme. The purpose of the groups will be to provide an agile and focussed response to delivery.

It is proposed that the working/task and finish groups are led by an Officer. The groups will have no decision making power as the mandate should be clearly set out by the Partnership. The Partnership will ultimately decide on how many of these are deemed necessary and when they will be disbanded.

5 Governance structure



6. Decision

6.1 The Wellbeing Board to consider the proposal for the new governance structure for the Stronger Communities Partnership Board including to offer any additions or changes needed for approval.