



Communities Overview
Committee

21st May 2018

Item

Local Joint Committees Review Task & Finish Group Interim Report

Responsible officer

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1.0 Summary

1.1 This paper provides an update on the work of the Review of Local Joint Committees Task and Finish Group

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 Members are asked to note the report, which is provided for information only.

3.0 Background

3.1 Local Joint Committees (LJCs) have been meeting and providing a forum for public engagement since 2009 and provide the structure for local partnership working and locality commissioning. There are now 23 LJCs across Shropshire organised and facilitated by the Community Enablement Team with some support from Legal & Democratic Services.

3.2 The core membership of the LJCs as stated in the Constitution is Shropshire councillors and town or parish councillors. Representatives of local organisations can be co-opted into membership but do not have voting rights

3.3 Currently, the LJC Constitution states that each LJC will hold a minimum of 2 public meetings each year and can organise as many as desired over and above this number. Each public meeting is preceded by a planning/working meeting and many LJCs are choosing to hold a greater number of working meetings than public meetings to benefit from meeting as a place based partnership working through specific issues

Changes were last made to LJC geographies in December 2014 and these went

3.4 some way to align LJC and Place Plan area boundaries. These changes also saw a reduction in the number of LJCs through the conversion of some to Neighbourhood Forums and the merging of others.

From 2009 to 2014 each LJC had its own grant funding budget and received
3.5 applications from voluntary and community groups in its area that members considered and made recommendations on.

A number of LJCs currently oversee the locality commissioning of youth activities –
3.6 making recommendations and monitoring delivery alongside CEOs acting as commissioners.

Across the county there is now a range of approaches to the design and delivery of
3.7 LJCs and local evolution has resulted in them looking very different from area to area. In some cases the LJC Constitution is not being adhered to.

The Communities Scrutiny Overview Committee met on 27th November 2017 and
3.8 confirmed the scope and terms of reference for a Task & Finish Group to review the current purpose and delivery of the Local Joint Committees.

Task & Finish Group Workshops

4.0

The T & F Group held half-day workshops on 18th and 27th April 2018. The summary
4.1 of the information shared with and discussed by members at the workshops is attached as Appendix 1 and Appendix 2.

At the first workshop members from a number of LJCs, with the Community
4.2 Enablement Officers supporting these committees were invited to give feedback on the design and delivery of their LJC.

Summary of the key points from the workshops

5.0

5.1 There is an opportunity for a new model of joint local meetings to be aligned with the purpose and boundaries of the Place Plan areas.

5.2 There is an opportunity to pick up the feedback from the recent council Peer Challenge Review and respond to a recommendation to strengthen the relationship between Shropshire Council and local councils

5.3 The future resource and role of the Community Enablement Team needs to be confirmed to inform the design and delivery of any future model.

5.4 There is an opportunity for pooling financial resources within an area, e.g. individual small grant pots.

There is an opportunity for co-ordinating and using the resources of an area, e.g.
5.5 the corporate social responsibility of businesses, voluntary activity, and social action to get things done locally.

6.0 Agreed next steps from the workshops

6.1 Cllr Cecilia Motley – chair of the T & F Group will discuss the opportunity described at 5.1 with Cllr Gwilym Butler - chair of the Place Overview Scrutiny to assess the potential for aligning the different Scrutiny discussions.

List of Background Papers Terms of Reference Shropshire Local Joint Committees Task and Finish Group November 2017
Cabinet Member Cllr Joyce Barrow, Portfolio Holder for Communities
Local Members All Members
Appendices Appendix 1: Communities Overview Scrutiny Committee Task & Finish Group Workshop 1 Presentation Appendix 2: Communities Overview Scrutiny Committee Task & Finish Group Workshop 2 Presentation

