

APPENDIX 1

Communities Overview Committee

Area committees task and finish group

Terms of reference

Summary

This report provides a draft terms of reference and work programme for a task and finish group that will appraise new boundaries for local joint committees, based on Place Plan boundaries. It will also identify new roles for the committees, based on current and emerging ways that the council and its partners work locally.

Recommendations

Members:

- agree the terms of reference for the task and finish group and
- make suggestions to develop the draft programme of work.

Context

In late 2017 the Communities Overview Committee agreed to set up a task and finish group to look at the role of local joint committees in current council arrangements. It held two two-day workshops in April 2018 and concluded that:

- 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.
- 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.
- The future resource and role of the Community Enablement Team needs to be confirmed to inform the design and delivery of any future model.
- 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. the corporate social responsibility of businesses, voluntary activity, and social action to get things done locally.

On 11 April 2018, around the same time as the Local Joint Committees Task and finish group was meeting, the Performance Management Scrutiny Committee presented the report of its task and finish group scrutinising arrangements for disbursing Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) income. The group heard that Shropshire Council proposed to allocate funding from the local element of CIL income according to the council's Place Plan areas, rather it being held for the town

or parish council area where the development generating the CIL income took place. It. The committee endorsed this approach and recommended that officers prepare proposals for Cabinet to consider.

At its meeting on 21 May 2018 the Communities Overview Committee agreed to set up a new task and finish group, to explore new arrangements for local committees, including their geographical boundaries to ensure local members can shape future local planning. In particular it would explore the opportunities that might be created by aligning new local committees to Place Plan boundaries.

In September 2018, Cabinet will consider proposals to change how CIL is disbursed. The group will begin its work when Cabinet has made its decision.

Objectives

The purpose of the group is:

- to look at existing arrangements for Local Joint Committees, their geographical alignment and role
- to appraise the opportunities and risks of aligning local committee boundaries with Place Plan areas and
- to determine how local committees can contribute effectively to local working arrangements.

Information required

- Shropshire Council's Cabinet's proposals for new arrangements to disburse CIL income
- Local Joint Committee constitutional arrangements
- Maps of Local Joint Committees and Place Plan boundaries

Methods to be used

- Survey of local joint local members from local joint committees, and town, parish and unitary councils, on options
- Options appraisals with local joint committee chairs and council officers
- Desktop policy and demographic research

Schedule

The group will meet for a short day session in October 2018. We expect to report back to the Communities Overview Committee on 26 November 2018.