



Cabinet
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Item
14
Public

Local Joint Committees – update on youth commissioning and boundaries

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1. Summary

Local Joint Committees (LJCs) have been meeting regularly since 2009 to provide joined up governance between the different tiers of local government. Following the move of the Council towards being a commissioning council and to placing increased emphasis on local commissioning youth activities will be commissioned by LJCs from April 2015. It is proposed that money is allocated to some LJCs based on a needs analysis and “funding formula” as set out within this report. The approach to youth commissioning, the funding made available to individual LJCs and the outcomes achieved will be evaluated in 2015/16 and the learning will be used to shape the approach within the following year.

Also within this report some changes are proposed to the geographies of LJCs in order to better align them to Place Plan areas and to better reflect the available staffing support resources. The decision on changes to the LJC constitution is a matter to be referred to the December Council meeting. It is anticipated that some changes may be necessary to the LJC constitution in the future to better reflect the local commissioning environment and it is proposed to recommend to Council that these changes are delegated to the Chief Executive in consultation with the relevant Portfolio Holder and local members.

2. Recommendations

- A.** In support of the commissioning of youth activities in 2015/16 to confirm the funding formula based on an analysis of need within individual LJC areas as outlined in Appendix 1.
- B.** To take the learning from the local commissioning of youth activities in 2015/16 and in the light of this to review the model, funding and outcomes to be achieved for young people in 2016/17 through scrutiny at the Children’s and Young People’s Scrutiny Committee

- C.** To recommend to Council the following:
- i) changes to the geographies of LJsCs as set out in Appendix 2 to this report:
 - Local governance within Shrewsbury will continue to be supported by the Shrewsbury wide LJC; however, the six individual area based Shrewsbury LJsCs will no longer meet as formally constituted LJsCs, although this does not prevent them continuing to meet as “Neighbourhood Forums” in response to local circumstances.
 - Loton & Tern, Burnell & Severn Valley, Longden, Ford & Rea Valley, and Strettondale LJsCs are consolidated into three new LJsCs:
 - a. Pontesbury, Minsterley, Longden, Ford, Rea Valley & Loton
 - b. Tern & Severn Valley
 - c. Strettondale
 - Highley LJC is joined by Chelmarsh Parish to align with the Highley Place Plan area
 - Bridgnorth, Worfield, Alveley & Claverley, LJC merges with Brown Clee LJC to form the Bridgnorth, Worfield, Alveley, Claverley & Brown Clee LJC Zone to more closely align with the Bridgnorth Place Plan area
 - ii) that the ability to make changes to the LJC constitution including further boundary changes is delegated to the Chief Executive in consultation with the relevant Portfolio Holder and local members.

REPORT

1.0 Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

Within the challenging budget pressures faced by Shropshire Council, LJsCs will support an effective approach to local commissioning within which the use of local assets - buildings, organisations and people – are maximised to the greatest local benefit. Supporting early help and prevention within local communities is a key driver for Shropshire.

It is recognised that applying this new way of working to the commissioning of youth activities from April 2015 will also present a number of challenges.

The main risk to LJsCs in taking on its enhanced role lies in the quality of its commissioning advice alongside the degree of local engagement within the governance arrangements. By separating the role of the LJC as a commissioner from the actual procurement of services by Shropshire Council, the risks of ineffective financial and contract management will be minimised. Community Enablement Team Officers will support LJsCs to commission activities by providing data, referencing a range of information, facilitating consultation and applying commissioning best practice.

An Equalities Impact Assessment has been developed as part of the future delivery of youth activities and consultation has enabled a wide range of stakeholders to contribute. The EINA will continue to be reviewed and updated as circumstances alter.

Alongside this the proposed changes to LJC boundaries provide the opportunity to strengthen local governance in support of local commissioning by supporting closer alignment with Place Plan boundaries.

2.0 Financial implications

Any financial risks attached to local commissioning will be minimised by retaining all financial and contract responsibilities within Shropshire Council.

3.0 Background Information

The creation of 28 LJCs and locality working was a key part of the business case for the introduction of unitary government in Shropshire in 2009.

Local Joint Committees are constituted in accordance with Sections 101 and 102 of the Local Government Act 1972.

Apart from minor changes to geographies, to the constitution and to responsibilities for providing officer support, LJCs have continued in their original format ever since.

A review of LJCs is provided within a report to Council in April 2013. This report highlights the opportunity for LJCs to build on existing good working relations as the Council moves towards a model of local commissioning. It references the challenge to continue to make the model relevant and to consider how other stakeholders and decision makers can be involved.

Opportunities to develop the governance role of LJCs in support of local commissioning will continue to be discussed with the aim of bringing a report to cabinet in 2015.

4.0 Local Joint Committee's role as the commissioner of youth activities

Since April 2014 LJCs have no longer had delegated budgets.

Alongside this Shropshire Council is committed to being a commissioning organisation and to supporting an approach that puts local communities at its heart. The fundamental premise of locality commissioning is that when community organisations work collaboratively with public sector organisations they can achieve better outcomes for their communities. Organisations have resources – buildings, finance, people, and expertise – and by aligning these together it should be possible to use them more effectively to make a positive difference to people's lives within their communities.

Recently Shropshire Council has begun to further develop and test its thinking around local commissioning with the local commissioning of activities for young people by LJCs from April 2015. Following a period of consultation the broad approach was confirmed within a report considered by the Portfolio Holder in July 2014. At the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee

in October 2014 discussion took place on the proposed needs assessment model used to allocate funding to LJsCs.

Eight measures were chosen to calculate an index of specific youth related need for each LJC. These eight measures were chosen to best reflect the outcomes sought by the Children's Trust. A needs score was calculated for each LJC area, which was used to determine the proportion of funding allocated to the LJC. The eight measures used in the funding formula are as follows:

- The no. of 10-19 year olds
- The no. of 10-19 year olds with a learning disability
- The no. of 10-10 year olds living in a deprived area
- The no. of 10-17 year olds offenders
- The no. of 10-19 year olds with poor school attendance
- The no. of referrals to social care for 10-17 year olds
- Occurrence of anti-social behaviour
- Percentage of obesity of 10-11 year olds

One measure, the number of 10-19 year olds per square mile, was used to distinguish rural areas from market towns. This was used to determine a specific rurality contribution, allocated separately from the main element of the funding determined by the formula described above.

Subsequently a delegated budget based on local young people needs has been allocated to individual LJsCs based on the evidence described above and according to a funding formula. This is shown within **Appendix 1**. LJsCs will be advising on appropriate youth activity outcomes within their areas based on a local needs assessment, an understanding of existing youth provision, conversations with young people and stakeholders, and their local knowledge. Community Enablement Team officers will support LJsCs with this work and will be responsible for procuring youth activity.

It is recognised that since this is a new way of working we need to learn from all aspects of the commissioning and procurement work and in particular its impact on better outcomes for young people. We will be reviewing activity and the learning within 2015/16 and propose to share this with the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee to inform work within 2016/17.

5.0 Changes to LJC geographies

In support of its local commissioning role we anticipate that LJsCs will work with local Town and Parish Councils to support the development of robust Place Plans that can be used as an "evidence base" in support of local commissioning advice.

In this respect it has become apparent that it would be more appropriate that LJC geographies should more closely align with Place Plan boundaries. The changes described within the recommendations and shown within **Appendix 2** go a little way towards this, while at the same time reducing the number of

LJCs and their associated bureaucracy. However, we are mindful both of local sensibilities to boundaries and of individual local circumstance and rather than be dogmatic on this point wish to keep boundaries under regular review.

The proposed changes described within this report on boundaries have been discussed and agreed with local Shropshire Council Members. They have also been discussed at LJCs and with Parish and Town councils. Some reservations remain particularly within the Shrewsbury rural area, but the proposals outlined here are felt to be the best compromise available.

6.0 Conclusions

The commissioning of youth activities by LJCs will be the first example of local commissioning in practice. In order to learn from this process, the manner in which funding is allocated and in particular its contribution to better outcomes for young people we will review progress at the Children and Young People’s Scrutiny Committee prior to allocating funding for 2016/17.

The prospered LJC boundary changes outlined within this report will strengthen local governance in support of local commissioning by more closely aligning with Place Plans boundaries. They will also provide some efficiencies by reducing the need for administration support.

<p>List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information) Local Joint Committees, Council, 18th April 2013 Future Commissioning & Provision of Youth Activities, Portfolio Holder decision, 2nd July 2014 Update – Future Commissioning and Provision of Youth Activities, Children and young People’s Scrutiny Committee, 22nd October 2014</p>
<p>Cabinet Member:</p>
<p>Local Members: All Members</p>
<p>Appendices: Appendix 1 – Youth Commissioning Needs analysis and funding formula Appendix 2 – Proposed Local Joint Committee areas</p>