

OPTIONS FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTION HUB IN THORNTON

REPORT OF DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE (COMMUNITY DIRECTION)

WARDS AFFECTED: RATBY, BAGWORTH & THORNTON



Hinckley & Bosworth
Borough Council

A Borough to be proud of

1. **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To seek approval from the Executive for developing a model of sustainable community led solutions in St Peters Drive, Thornton through the provision of a temporary Neighborhood Action Hub . The key aim of the Neighbourhood Action Hub would be to develop community led solutions to address the issues on St Peters Drive, improve community cohesion, reduce isolation and increase satisfaction with the local area.

2. **RECOMMENDATION**

The Executive:

- 2.1 Note the work which has taken place in St Peters Drive, Thornton through Neighbourhood Takes Change.
- 2.2 Agree to developing a community led solution in St Peters Drive, Thornton, through the development of a temporary Neighborhood Action Hub.
- 2.3 Agree a one off capital budget of £15,500 to fund the set up costs of the hub. This is to be financed from revenue.
- 2.4 Agreed a supplementary budget of £23,311 to fund the revenue costs of the hub to be funded from the HRA Regeneration Reserve.

3. **BACKGROUND TO THE REPORT**

- 3.1 In August 2013 the council initiated a 'Neighborhood Takes Charge' initiative in St Peter's Drive Thornton due to a high number of reported anti-social behaviour and drug related incidents.

- 3.3 Neighbourhood Takes Charge involved consultation with local residents and councillors, and an environmental audit, which highlighted the following issues:

- Drug related activity
- Poor transport links
- Lack of access and engagement with council services and other public services
- Feeling of isolation and a feeling that they have been abandoned by local services
- low levels of employment
- lack of activities for young people
- lack of positive community cohesion
- Visually bleak environment
- Environmental ASB such as fly tipping

- 3.4 Neighbourhood Takes Charge is a short term project aimed at encouraging the local community to become involved in driving forward improvements to their local area. It has become apparent that longer term work is needed with the community in St Peters Drive to tackle the issues identified above and a Neighbourhood Action Hub would enable this work to continue.
- 3.5 Perhaps one of the most telling comments coming back from the consultations is the fact that residents feel isolated and feel that they have been abandoned by local services, this has contributed to a general sense of malaise and lack of community cohesion/connection.
- 3.6 Both the Community Safety Partnership Strategic Assessment 2013-14 and the Anti Poverty Strategy Refresh 2013 highlight Bagworth and Thornton (LSOA) as having higher than average incidents of criminality and poverty.
- 3.7 The key aim of a Neighbourhood Action Hub would be to develop community led solutions to address the issues on St Peters Drive, improve community cohesion, reduce isolation and increase satisfaction with the local area. It would look to improve the appearance of the area in and around St Peter's Drive and have a positive impact on people reporting issues and working with key agencies to tackle long term problems, for example anti social behaviour and crime. All initiatives would aim to be sustainable beyond the life of this project.
- 3.8 A number of delivery mechanisms were considered for the provision of neighbourhood action including a mobile unit, using locations away from St Peters Drive and using an empty property on St Peters Drive.
- 3.9 After reviewing the cost of each option and the effectiveness in engaging the community in long term solutions, it is recommended that providing a Neighbourhood Action Hub in the vacant property on St Peters Drive for a temporary 12 month period is the most viable option.
- 3.10 This option would give the greater chance for success due to it being placed in the centre of many of the issues to be tackled. Also experience has shown that relationships can be built and engagement with the service is greater in the area surrounding the project, particularly in the early stages. Facilities would be provided to run groups and meetings from the Hub thereby not incurring extra costs to run groups/meetings and it would provide private, confidential facilities that residents could access for confidential support and advice
- 3.11 The Neighbourhood Action Hub would build on the successful elements of the Community House model operating in other parts of the Borough, but the aim would be to ensure community capacity and confidence is developed to a point where other community support mechanisms, detailed in paragraph 4.1 and 4.2 could continue the work beyond the 12 month period.
- 3.13 It is envisaged that these arrangements to be tried and tested in Thornton, will establish a sustainable model that can be rolled out to other parts of the Borough overtime. The learning will be particularly beneficial in understanding how best to create such arrangements in other rural areas of the borough.
- 3.14 REVENUE COSTS

The estimated annual revenue cost of the project is shown in the table below and is

Item	Projected Cost
Assistant Staff Salary (Inc On-Costs)	£6,730

Premises related costs	£2,961
Supplies and services	£6,140
Central recharges	£7480
Total revenue costs	£23,311

CAPITAL COSTS

The project will require initial additional capital items as set out below. These are estimated costs at this stage.

Item	Estimated Cost
Internal Security Works	£3,000
Security Alarms and contract	£2,000
Fire Alarm system	£1,000
General Hub Equipment/office equipment	£3,000
IT Systems	£1,500
Project Refurbishment materials	£3,000
Garden Improvement materials	£1,000
Contingencies	£1,000
Estimated Total	£15,500

As Orbit Housing have a small number of properties on St Peters Drive they have been approached and asked whether they would make a contribution to the cost.

- 3.15 In order to be able to measure the impact of the Neighbourhood Action Hub a performance management framework will be put in place. The proposed measures are detailed in appendix 1.

4. LONG TERM SUSTAINABILITY OF THE COMMUNITY LED SOLUTIONS.

- 4.1 In enabling the sustainability of the project, it will be important to ensure that developing work during the 12 month period links in with, and draws on, resources/expertise from existing developing community solutions work streams, for example: the new Hinckley & Bosworth Voluntary and Community Sector arrangements aimed at building and sustaining VCS organisations and service delivery; support of the Hinckley and Bosworth Community Coaches available via the Countywide Think Leicestershire initiative; the authority's Community Contacts scheme, learning from the developing Good Neighbourhood Scheme projects, the Earl Shilton Community Solutions pilot, and other relevant developing areas of work, such as the Local Area Coordinator (LACs) initiative.
- 4.2. In addition the authority currently has an annual SLA with the Rural Communities Council (RCC) which secures front line delivery provision via a RCC Community Development Worker, against agreed priority work streams. Part of this provision could be allocated to support the Thornton Neighbourhood Action Team, and hence reducing the number of hours required to be provided via the Earl Shilton Community Development worker. The Hinckley & Bosworth RCC Community Development Worker has supported a community action group in Desford in establishing a Good Neighbourhood Scheme during 2013/14, (a sustainable community led model) and initial discussions with the RCC has flagged up that we may wish to secure similar support for Thornton as part of the 2014/15 SLA.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (KP)

- 5.1 The predicted ongoing revenue and one of set up costs of the proposed options have been detailed in the main body of the report and can be summarised as follows:

Ongoing Revenue cost	Set up cost	Total (Y1)
£	£	£
23,311	15,500	38,811

5.2 Given the relatively small value of the set up costs, it would be proposed that , if approved the scheme be funded by revenue contributions (RCCO) as the relative cost of borrowing on assets would not prove value for money. On this basis, the year 1 budget would be required in the set up year and an ongoing budget for revenue costs included in the base going forward. At the values predicted, these supplementary budgets require authorisation by Executive in line with Financial Procedure Rules.

5.3 As advised by Housing, the Community House Facility will be based in an area solely utilised by Council tenants and therefore any costs could be met from the Housing Revenue Account balance or Regeneration Reserve.

5.4 Any contribution secured from Orbit housing for the preferred option would reduce the commitment required from the HRA for the provision of the House. An income budget would be required for this amount and could be included in any supplementary budget request – This is on the basis that supplementary budgets must be obtained based on gross income and expenditure.

6. **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS (AB)**

The Council has a general power to take action to support the social well being of all or part of its administrative area under S2 of the Local Government Act 2000. The establishment of any of the options put forward by this report would fall within this power.

7. **CORPORATE PLAN IMPLICATIONS**

1. Creating a vibrant place to work and live
2. Empowering communities
3. Supporting individuals
4. Providing value for money and pro-active services

8. **CONSULTATION**

Consultation has taken place with the local community through the Neighbourhood Takes Charge initiative.

9. **RISK IMPLICATIONS**

Management of significant (Net Red) Risks		
Risk Description	Mitigating actions	Owner
Long term expectation that a temporary Community House will become permanent.	Develop long term sustainability options of community solutions an delivery models.	Sharon Stacey

10. **KNOWING YOUR COMMUNITY – EQUALITY AND RURAL IMPLICATIONS**

The Hub would be supporting a rural community which is currently feeling isolated from existing services. The Neighbourhood Takes charge initiative has enabled the council to understand the needs of residents in the area.

11. **CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS**

By submitting this report, the report author has taken the following into account:





- Community Safety implications
 - Environmental implications
 - ICT implications
 - Asset Management implications
 - Human Resources implications
 - Planning Implications
 - Voluntary Sector
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


Background papers:




Contact Officer: Sharon Stacey
Executive Member: Councillor M Mullaney

Thornton Neighbourhood Action Facility Performance Indicators

- The proposed indicators have been chosen specifically to measure some of the key outcomes/outputs in relation to the aims of this project.
- The indicators proposed are a mixture of perception and actual recorded incident indicators so that a correlation between actual incidents and perceptions can be made.
- Whilst our long term aim is to reduce ASB and environmental ASB this proactive project will encourage more people to report issues in their community so targets have been set to increase reported ASB.
- It is proposed that a 'Planning for Real' community consultation will be undertaken at the start of the project to better understand the needs and views of the community. This will provide baselines for satisfaction and may result in changes to the proposed framework to better reflect the needs of the community
- In addition to this framework qualitative information and additional output measures will be an important part of evidencing the success of this project

Outcome	Proposed Indicator	Measured currently via:	Proposed reporting frequency	TARGET	Baseline available
Communities are safer	Total recorded crime	Leicestershire Constabulary	6 monthly		TBC
	Serious Acquisitive Crime	Leicestershire Constabulary	6 monthly		TBC
	Deliberate Fires	LFRS	6 monthly		TBC
Supporting Leicestershire Families	No families with complex needs decreases	SLF – Performance monitoring	Annually		TBC
	Positive outcomes achieved for families working with SLF	SLF – Performance monitoring	Annually	As per SLF targets	TBC

Increase reporting of Anti-social behaviour	Total recorded ASB	Leicestershire Constabulary/HBBC	6 monthly		Yes
	No. of noise complaints to HBBC	HBBC	6 monthly		Yes
	No. of Graffiti and Vandalism complaints to HBBC	HBBC	6 monthly		Yes
Communities feel that anti-social behaviour is reducing	% think the level of anti-social behaviour has decreased or stayed the same	Local survey	Annually		Yes*
Improved perception of the way that ASB is dealt with	% agree that police and other local services are successfully dealing with ASB and crime	Local survey	Annually		Yes*
Communities are cleaner and tidier places	No. litter complaints to HBBC	HBBC	6 monthly		Yes
	No. of dog fouling complaints to HBBC	HBBC	6 monthly		Yes
	No. of fly tipping complaints to HBBC	HBBC	6 monthly		Yes
Communities feel local areas are cleaner and tidier places	% think rubbish or litter lying around a problem	Local Survey	Annually		Yes*
Increased Community Cohesion	No local community projects/events initiated via project	HBBC	Quarterly		

Increase in volunteering	No new volunteers in Thornton engaged via project	HBBC	Quarterly		No
Increase in local youth provision	No. new youth facilities in Thornton during project lifespan	HBBC	Quarterly		TBC
Increased satisfaction with local area as a place to live	% satisfied with local area as a place to live	Local Survey	Annually		Via Planning for Real