

## **Report to Cabinet**

**Subject:** Locality Working  
**Date:** 17<sup>th</sup> October 2013  
**Author:** Corporate Director, Paula Darlington

---

### **Wards Affected**

Netherfield, Newstead and Killisick.

### **Purpose**

To ask Cabinet to endorse the Locality Plans for Netherfield and Newstead and seek approval to extend locality working to Killisick.

### **Key Decision**

This is not a key decision.

### **Background**

1.1 Cabinet agreed on the 5<sup>th</sup> May 2012 to change the way that it worked in communities by having a more focused approach in two priority areas, Netherfield and Newstead rather than a generic approach across the borough. These areas were selected as the priority neighbourhoods in view of the challenges faced by those communities, for example Anti-Social Behaviour, Health and Education, Unemployment and Child poverty. The key objectives for the new posts were :-

- To raise the profile of Elected Members and build the capacity of Elected Members to enable them to fully fulfil their representative and community leadership roles.
  - To improve the co-ordination between council services and partner organisations to engage and empower the local communities in problem solving at local area and street level.
  - To prioritise Community Engagement by targeted intervention in a defined locality.
  - To co-ordinate partnership working in a defined locality to support residents in areas/ localities of greatest need for the purposes of empowering residents to building stronger socially sustainable communities.
-

In addition funding was made available to both Communications and Member Services to:-

- Make increased use of social media and new technology to engage residents and businesses for the purposes of providing information, collecting data and communication and consultation.
- Gather customer insight to improve services to residents.

- 1.2 This led to the creation of Locality Co-ordinator posts for the two priority areas, commencing in September 2012. One of the primary responsibilities of the Locality Co-ordinators was to create a Locality Plan for their area. This is a comprehensive document which identifies the priorities and includes an action plan which details how these issues will be tackled and details the key partners in supporting this work.
- 1.3 The two Locality Co-ordinators have offices in Newstead and Netherfield and their presence in the community has enabled them to quickly engage with residents and local businesses. They have also hosted consultation events to draw down local knowledge and to check that the priorities identified reflect the views of residents. To date a range of activities and events have taken place. In Netherfield there has been the introduction of the monthly fresh food markets in response to the request from local businesses to increase the foot fall in the town centre on Saturday mornings. Local residents and Councillors also raised the problem with a series of alleyways which were constantly being used for fly tipping. In response the Locality Co-ordinator, using Public Realms funding, arranged for these alleyways to be cleared and gates installed which has made significant improvements. In Newstead the Locality Co-ordinator has established a Children and Young Peoples group, facilitated a range of activities for young people over the summer holidays, introduced a job club providing assistance for local people in preparing their CVs and created a Newstead Facebook page. Both areas have also benefitted from hanging baskets and planters. The Locality Co-ordinators arranged for the flowers and compost to be provided by B & Q, the on-going maintenance is funded by Gedling Homes and the Locality Co-ordinators used their funding to purchase the baskets and planters at a significantly reduced price from a neighbouring Local Authority.
- 1.4 In Newstead there was already a Parish Plan in place and objectives from this feature in the Locality Plan. Netherfield did not have a specific plan and so started from a different angle, but both Locality Plans have been produced to address the objectives identified by residents, Councillors and key partners plus the overarching aims of the locality co-ordinators which include tackling issues such as unemployment, health, education, tackling poverty and disadvantage.
- 1.5 Over the past year the economic data set for each ward has been monitored, and compared to other wards in the borough. It has become apparent that Killisick ward is showing an increase in deprivation indices such as child poverty and youth unemployment such that it is now equal to or in a worsening position than the two priority wards. This does pose a question for the future working arrangements of the

Locality Co-ordinators in terms of their overarching objective to tackle disadvantage, and the option of extending Locality Working to include Killisick is included in this report.

	<b>Killisick</b>	<b>Netherfield</b>	<b>Newstead</b>	<b>National figures</b>
<b>Overall unemployment</b>	6.1%	5.1%	3.9%	3.8% in Nottinghamshire
<b>Youth Unemployment</b>	9.8%	8.2%	5.7%	6.1% Nationally
<b>Child Poverty</b>	36%	25%	13%	
<b>Fuel Poverty</b>	Average 6.45%	Average 8.5%	16.1%	

- 1.6 Killisick has a significantly higher proportion of unemployed youngsters with 9.8% of its population in this age group claiming Job Seekers' Allowance in August 2013. The national level for this age group is 6.10%, only Newstead has levels lower than this at 5.7%. Further information is available in the Gedling Now Comparison Report on Killisick, Netherfield & Colwick and Newstead Ward (available as a background paper).

## **Proposal**

- 2.1 The Locality Co-ordinators for Netherfield and Newstead have finalised a draft locality plan for their respective priority wards. These are appendixes to this report.
- 2.2 It is proposed that the Netherfield and Newstead Locality Plans are endorsed by Cabinet for implementation and that progress against the action plans is managed by the Locality Co-ordinators then reported back to the Portfolio Holder for Community Development.
- 2.3 It is proposed that the Locality Co-ordinator for Newstead whilst remaining in Newstead for part of the week is deployed the rest of each week in Killisick, in order to support the ward councillor in tackling the escalating issues in that ward. Initially the Locality Co-ordinator would be based at the Civic Centre whilst the options of providing an office and contact point for residents in Killisick is appraised.

## **Alternative Options**

- 3.1 The Council could opt not to endorse the two Locality Plans but this would be counterproductive because by having them the Locality Co-ordinators have a clear remit in their areas and the plans set out the priorities for the areas based on both intelligence and consultation. Having adopted Locality Plans in place will aid local delivery and support funding applications to external organisations.
- 3.2 The Council could choose not to extend locality working to include Killisick ward but this would not allow any extra resources to be deployed in that ward to co-ordinate a response to the increasing levels of deprivation currently being experienced in that area.

## **Financial Implications**

- 4 The overall budget for Locality Working was reduced in 2013/14 to £10,000. There is no additional budget to fund activities in Killisick, the proposal being to provide this within the existing budget.

## **Appendices**

- 5 Appendix 1 - Locality Plan for Netherfield  
Appendix 2 – Locality Plan for Newstead

## **Background Papers**

- 6 Gedling Now Comparison Report on Killisick, Netherfield & Colwick and Newstead Wards

## **Recommendations**

### **THAT:**

- (a) The two Locality Plans for Netherfield and Newstead are endorsed;
- (b) Approval is given to the extension of locality working to include Killisick; and
- (c) The proposal that the locality co-ordinator for Newstead becomes the locality co-ordinator for Newstead and Killisick be endorsed.

## **Reasons for Recommendations**

- 7.1 The endorsement of the Locality Plans in Netherfield and Newstead will enable Locality Co-ordinators to formalise their key priorities, following consultation with local residents and stakeholders by publishing the final document.
- 7.2 The Locality Plans will also form the basis of external funding applications which require the evidenced based information contained in the Locality Plans.
- 7.3 The extension of locality working to Killisick will enable resources to be targeted to this ward to work with the local ward member and partners to tackle the escalating issues in that ward.