

Portfolio Holder Annual Report

Portfolio: Community Leadership and
Partnership

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Carole Gandy

Year: 2011/12

1. Executive Summary

1.1. Please provide a summary of progress over the last year (no more than one page).

Community Leadership

A range of community engagement activities have been undertaken including a stand at the Morton Stanley Festival and roadshows around the Borough, including a very successful day at the Kingfisher Centre during the January sales where over 150 residents and visitors to the Borough had their say. The Budget Jury process was also repeated this year, with 14 residents involved and their feedback was extremely positive. The Community Forum has continued to meet and has been working towards the Betty Passingham 'No Barriers' Disabled Access Awards, in addition to having an individual stand at the Morton Stanley Festival. There was a joint LGBT History Month programme with Bromsgrove, coordinated by the Policy Officer (Equalities), a new Interpretation and Translation Policy drafted to make the process easier for frontline staff and work started under the requirements of the Equality Act.

Corporate Policy

The Council Plan 2011-14 was approved, supported by a corporate performance indicator set. The number of indicators reported corporately was reduced during the year to reflect the changes that a systems thinking approach will bring to the Council, with work progressing on how transformation will change corporate strategy and policy going forward. There has also been analysis of consultation and demographic data undertaken to support the development of strategic purposes for the Borough. During the year there have also been negotiations with the Research and Intelligence Unit at Worcestershire County Council to bring an analyst and insight capacity in to support the Policy Team, which will be implemented April 2012.

Communications

Since April the Communications Team is now a shared across Redditch and Bromsgrove. Three editions of Redditch Matters have been published and a Council Tax leaflet. The team has continued to support the Council with proactive and reactive media liaison including campaigns such as the Abbey Stadium naming competition and subsequent open day publicity and the Every Customer, Every Time project.

Partnerships

The Redditch Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) and its associated action plans were agreed and signed off in March 2011. Since then, the Health and Well Being Sub Group and the Redditch Local Children's Partnership have been working to deliver on actions to tackle health inequalities and raising educational achievement and aspirations. The Redditch Partnership also held its annual conference in June 2011. Partner

organisations and agencies were invited to discuss the new SCS and how they could contribute to the delivery of this strategy for Redditch.

Voluntary Sector

The Stronger Communities grants supported 24 smaller community groups with grant of up to £500 in 2012/13. This allowed the Council the opportunity to engage with groups that historically have been under the radar, feeling that they are ineligible to apply for funding. The 2012/13 grants programme will fund a 3 year training programme to support infrastructure & capacity building within the local Voluntary Sector in place for 2012/13 to 2014/15.

2. Performance

2.1. Please detail areas of good performance over the past year.

- Budget Jury was both popular and successful.
- Morton Stanley festival community engagement presence.
- Supported road shows and other community engagement events (e.g. Caribbean Roots event, Chinese New Year).
- Council Plan agreed.
- Quarterly reporting of performance.
- First joint LGBT History Month programme with Bromsgrove.
- Well received equalities training for Members.
- Interpretation and Translation Policy.
- First ever 'Summer sports' pull-out launched as a centre spread in Summer Redditch Matters – and a Christmas events pull-out followed in the Winter edition.
- Press releases and day to day media management – including Trading Standards for WRS.
- Promotion of Shared Services nationally to highlight the Council's forward thinking approach
- Leader's column ongoing
- Proactive presence on Twitter of campaigns e.g. Britain in Bloom
- Managed media at May election
- Worked with departments to promote events and campaigns including Democracy Day, Morton Stanley, Abbey Stadium, Winyates, Church Hill development and community grants.
- Produced Council Tax leaflet
- Procured new company to sell adverts in Redditch Matters on behalf of the Council
- Launch of Staff newsletter 'Oracle' and Oracle e-mail service
- Supported the Council's Youth Services Provision Task Group and the Increasing Recycling Rates Task Group.
- Redditch Career's Fair organised by a range of partners
- Redditch Partnership Conference

- Closer working relationships with the Bromsgrove and Redditch Clinical Commissioning Group
- Establishment of the Local Joined Up Working Group (lead by Kevin Dicks)
- Completion of the Capital project in Winyates
- Drafting of Winning Winyates (AoHN) outcomes and measures
- Champions' Visit to Winning Winyates project
- The grants team delivered several training, networking and up-skilling opportunities to the VCS in 2011.
- Grant Bid Writing Workshop – 25 attendees
- Health & Safety Training – 30 attendees
- 2 day Outcomes Training – 16 Attendees
- Grant Information Coffee Morning – 50+ attendee's
- The grants team produce a monthly newsletter that highlights projects, profiles groups and advertises funding available to the sector.

2.2. Please detail key performance indicators that are of concern

Key Performance Indicators – Areas of Concern			
PI Ref	PI Description	Explanation and/or corrective action.	Impact on budget
	No areas of concern identified		

3. Revenue Budget

3.1. Explain problem areas – what has been done, what is planned to be done – impact on priorities, key deliverables

Revenue Budget – Areas of Concern			
Budget Code	Description	Explanation and/or corrective action.	Impact on performance and priorities
0421 / 0419	Redditch Partnership Budget	There is a small (approximately £1,500) budget for the Redditch Partnership. In the past this funding has	Lack of a budget will mean that Partnership activities such as promotion, consultation and other Partnership

		<p>been provided by the Council and other partners but contributions have since ceased and this funding is now dwindling. In the future, as this money decreases, a small budget bid will need to be made or further contributions from partners will have to be encouraged.</p>	<p>networking events will be restricted or will not take place.</p>
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4. Capital Budget

- 4.1. Explain problem areas – what has been done, what is planned to be done – impact on priorities, key deliverables

Revenue Budget – Areas of Concern			
Budget Code	Description	Explanation and/or corrective action.	Impact on performance and priorities
	No areas of concern identified		

5. The Year Ahead

5.1 Please detail the portfolio holder's main areas of focus in 2012/2013:-

Community Leadership

The start of the SLA with Worcestershire County Council to provide analyst/customer insight support (matrix managed by the Policy Manager) should support the community leadership agenda with a greater analysis of and better targeted community engagement. There will be an evaluation of the Budget Jury and further public involvement through the next budget round, reflecting the changes that are happening internally through transformation. The roadshow programme will continue, hopefully building on the success of the last roadshow at the Kingfisher Centre, with a further event planned for May, and having a presence at Morton Stanley and any proposed Street Theatres. There will be a review of "walking the wards" in order to enable a more target approach and specific engagement activity (both areas and relevant partner events). The Community Forum will be supported to grow and develop, bringing the needs of different equality groups to the Council. There will also be further work to develop the Council's response to the Equality Act.

Corporate Policy

With the move away from performance indicators to measures, the Policy Team will be working with Business Transformation to develop and support operational measures and the corporate dashboard of measures, subject to approval by Members. This will also change how performance is reported, which should hopefully enable a more responsive management of our performance. The start of the SLA with Worcestershire County Council to provide analyst/customer insight support (matrix managed by the Policy Manager) should increase the capacity of the team to support the corporate policy agenda, in particular, understanding our data and demand. The Council Plan will be reworked to reflect the strategic purposes of the Council and will be an evolving document, reflecting the changes that interventions and the transformation programme will have and will be updating to include the corporate dashboard when it goes live.

Communications

The Communications Team will continue to produce 3 copies of Redditch Matters and provide continued proactive and reactive media support to the Council including managing the media at the Election in May. We will continue to provide marketing support across the Council and its departments to raise the profile of events and campaigns. We want to spend some time making sure the staff intranet is up to date and utilised. We are also involved in the Communications Scrutiny Report.

Partnerships

The membership of the Local Children's Partnership is to be widened to increase the involvement of voluntary sector groups who deliver services to young people. This is to ensure the group is fit for purpose to act as an advisory board to the new Commissioning Group for the distribution of the Positive Activities funding. The Health and Wellbeing Sub Group will continue to look at issues around obesity, smoking and alcohol but will also consider the relationship of mental health to these issues. Redditch Partnership Board will look to host its second annual conference in the summer of 2012. The Joined Up Working Group will continue to examine how partners work together in a locality using transformation methods.

Voluntary Sector and Grants

The Councils 2012/13 Voluntary & Community Sector Grants Programme includes themes that encourage projects to increase local capacity in the community and supporting training and volunteering opportunities within the town. The grants team will look raise the profile and increase the range of projects delivered by the local Voluntary & Community Sector in Redditch. The grants team has been invited by Droitwich Spa & Rural Voluntary Service to participate in a funding fair on 5th March, delivering one to one sessions and a workshop on Redditch Borough Council's grant programme.

The 3 year training and infrastructure funding opportunity will be advertised for providers to tender in February 2012. By working in partnership with a recognised provider we will identify ways in which the voluntary and community sectors are supported in developing their 'capacity'. We will continually review current practice and experience within the sector, and identify early trends and respond to these as required.

The outcomes identified for 2012/13 are:

- To increase awareness of Redditch Borough Council's grant process
- To increase the standard of grant applications
- To improve communication within the sector
- To increase partnership working within the sector
- Increase funding the local VSC organisations attract to the Borough due to up-skilling opportunities offered as part of the Councils capacity building support plan