

Action Plan to Improve the Way that the Board Works

1. Aim

To discuss and where appropriate, approve action plan / parts of action plan that addresses how the Board works.

2. Background

This action plan was developed by board members who attended the away day on 21st February. The aim of the away day was to look at how the board works, and to identify what works and what isn't working quite so well and which we might be able to change and improve. As part of this exercise board members were encouraged to look at the strengths, challenges, opportunities and threats related to the board and its work, and then come up with solutions and actions. These ideas form the basis of the action plan.

The action plan is not about the business of the board, i.e. how we will tackle cleaner, greener issues, but about the board and how it goes about doing it's business. It tries to address issues such as relationships between members, communication and the style of board meetings. At the away day we agreed to bring this paper to the Board meeting on 20 March in order to share it with other board members and seek approval to take forward the proposed actions.

Given the way that the plan was developed, it is natural that some of the elements of the action plan will need further explanation and clarification, particularly for those that weren't able to attend the away day. In addition, there are some actions around the theme of decision-making and communications which start to stray into the business of the board, especially the issue of community involvement. These actions need to be developed in more detail, including costings and milestones and it is suggested that this element of the action plan isn't approved at the meeting on 20 March.

3. Contribution to mandatory outcomes and indicators

- Service providers are more responsive to the needs of residents
- Residents feel able to influence service delivery

4. Financial Implications

Most of the actions will not require any additional resources, with the exception of some of those relating to communications and decision-making. These actions need to be developed in more detail before approval by the Board can be given.

5. Project sustainability

As board members acknowledged at the away day, strengthening the board and making it even more effective is key to the sustainability of the Improving Neighbourhoods programme; with an effective and enthusiastic partnership board, activity could continue beyond the lifetime of the funds.

6. Timescale and key milestones

Timescales are set out in the action plan. Where timescales are not provided these need to be developed. It is suggested that this action plan is

reviewed at each board meeting.

7. Recommendation

To approve the action plan and agree to look in more detail at the actions highlighted with an asterisk (*) and approve those at a later stage.

Vicky Etheridge
Neighbourhood Manager