

		<b>AGENDA ITEM NO.</b>	
<b>Report Cover Sheet</b>			
<b>Name of Meeting:</b>		Executive	
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>		10 <sup>th</sup> December 2007	
<b>Report Title:</b>		Locality Working Proposals for Warwick District	
<b>Summary of report:</b>		To approve for consultation purposes proposals for locality working in Warwick District.	
<b>For Further Information Please Contact (report author):</b>		Chris Elliott	
<b>Would the recommended decision be contrary to the Policy Framework:</b>		No	
<b>Would the recommended decision be contrary to the Budgetary framework:</b>		No	
<b>Wards of the District directly affected by this decision:</b>		All	
<b>Key Decision?</b>		Yes	
<b>Included within the Forward Plan?</b>		Yes (If Yes, include reference number)	
<b>Is the report Private &amp; Confidential</b>		No	
<b>Background Papers:</b>		Report to Executive in September – Building on Excellence	
Report to the Executive 18 <sup>th</sup> September 2007			
<b>Consultation Undertaken</b> Below is a table of the Council's regular consultees. However not all have to be consulted on every matter and if there was no obligation to consult with a specific consultee they will be marked as n/a.			
<b>Consultees</b>	<b>Yes/ No</b>	<b>Who</b>	
Other Committees			
Ward Councillors			
Portfolio Holders			
Other Councillors			
Warwick District Council recognised Trades Unions			

Other Warwick District Council Service Areas		
Project partners		
Parish/Town Council		
Highways Authority		
Residents		
Citizens Panel		
Other consultees		LSP
<b>Officer Approval</b>		
With regard to officer approval all reports must be approved by the report authors relevant director, Finance Services and Legal Services.		
<b>Officer Approval</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Name</b>
Relevant Director(s)		Karen Pearce, Craig Anderson
Chief Executive		Chris Elliott
CMT		
Section 151 Officer		Mary Hawkins
Legal		Simon Best
Finance		Mike Snow
<b>Final Decision?</b>		No
<b>Suggested next steps (if not final decision please set out below)</b>		
Proposals will be subject to consultation and the response will be reported back in February 2008.		

## **1. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 1.1 To seek approval for the proposals for locality working in Warwick District set out in this report at paragraph 2.3 for consultation purposes with partner agencies, parish and town councils and staff and unions.

## **2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 The Building on Excellence document agreed in mid September 2007 contained a proposal to develop neighbourhood working but which required more detail in respect of the geographical areas and services that would form the basis for the virtual teams proposed in that document.

- 2.2 The County Council have also worked up locality proposals which match those proposed here. In addition the Police implemented 8 Safer Neighbourhood Forums and Teams in 2006 in the District.

- 2.3 In discussion with the County Council it is suggested that:

1. the existing 8 Safer Neighbourhood Fora be used as the basis for locality working in Warwick District. i.e.:

Whitnash; South Leamington; North Leamington; Kenilworth; Warwick; Rural East and Rural West; Leamington Town Centre.

2. that in support of these fora, they are supported by WDC and WCC staff working in or covering 5 localities:

Whitnash and South Leamington; North Leamington; Kenilworth, Warwick and the Rural Area.

3. The remit of the Fora will become wider than just community safety issues. They should:

- shape and endorse strategies and targets relating to the Locality, through the development of a Locality Plan or similar;
- Informally agree which individual or agency would take forward issues and actions arising from residents concerns;
- Oversee and steer local projects and initiatives;
- Endorse actions and set priorities. This could include for instance, the setting of priorities of the Safer Neighbourhoods Police Teams. Councillors may be granted individual powers (through the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act) which could be delegated to the Locality body for its consideration;
- Advise other bodies around decisions relating to their Locality, and there would be a clear expectation that public bodies consult with the relevant Locality before making decisions which directly affect that Locality;
- Agree the allocation of funds to local community projects, so long as the funding body retained the final decision.

4. The core membership would be elected County, District and Parish/Town Councillors and representatives from the Police and Health.

5. That the District and County Council set up a Joint Communities and Partnership Team (agreed as part of Building on Excellence) where existing staff (totalling 8) provide support to each of the fora and they become the link to all services and other agencies.

6. Virtual staff teams are suggested for each of the 5 areas listed above. They might include from the District Council:

Customer Services – the One Stop Shop manager of the 5 OSS's  
Housing – Estates Management (each estate manager who operates a patch)

Neighbourhood Services – an officer covering waste/cleansing, grds. maintenance, parking, CCTV etc leading for each of the 5 areas

Cultural Services - Sports Facilities Manager/Development for each area of the 5 areas

Planning – one officer for each of the 5 areas

Env. Health – one Officer for each of the 5 areas

Economic Development and Regeneration – the Town Centre Manager for each of the 3 larger towns and two other staff for the other 2 areas.

Engineering – one officer or each of the 5 areas.

Each virtual area team could be co-ordinated by a Head of Service to make sure things get discussed, actioned and to link up with the services of other agencies including the County Council, Police and PCT. The idea is that greater liaison can be achieved to help resolve local problems and issues within existing resources and to work up and implement a local action plan – the accent being on “local”.

The Joint Community Partnership Team officers could work up the local action plans and record progress. As the fora are only likely to meet quarterly then it is not anticipated that the virtual team has to meet more than quarterly unless a particular matter requires it. It is not expected that the whole virtual team should attend the fora meetings.

The concept is not necessarily that the staff identified only work in one of the 5 areas but that they take responsibility to make sure issues within each of these areas is tackled by their service. So although they may directly action issues they could just as likely act to make sure a colleague gets it done and to provide feedback on outcomes and progress.

However, the Council has not worked this way before and it is important not to overload staff with requests for service that cannot be met or which put them into conflict over demands between areas.

The concept will take time to develop and mature and staff need to be allowed the opportunity to work out how it can work. Staff will be part of this consultation.

**3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 3.1 The Council could decide not to proceed but this proposal follows an in principle earlier decision made by the Executive in September this year. It also follows on from the Safer Neighbourhood Forums established in 2006.

**4. BUDGETARY FRAMEWORK**

- 4.1 There are no direct financial consequences but if this results in additional calls on staff time then there may in future be either changes to the way existing budgets are used and allocated or additional resources will be required. It is because of this that a cautious introduction is proposed so that any effects can be picked up early.

**5. POLICY FRAMEWORK**

- 5.1 This proposal accords with the general thrust of the proposed new Corporate Strategy to better reflect and respond to community needs.