

REPORT TO	DATE OF MEETING
Cabinet	21 st February 2012

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SUBJECT	PORTFOLIO	AUTHOR	ITEM
My Neighbourhood Plans.	Regeneration, Leisure and Healthy Communities.	Denise Johnson	4

SUMMARY AND LINK TO CORPORATE PRIORITIES

Attached to this covering report are the drafts of the five My Neighbourhood Plans. Each plan was set after consultation to find out what local priorities people wanted and takes into account existing plans. The My Neighbourhood Plans are a mixture of projects - high and low cost, long and short term delivery, and a mix of capital works and community based non capital schemes. The plans cover a two year period.

The My Neighbourhood Plans support all the priorities within the Corporate Plan.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That Cabinet:

1. Approve the My Neighbourhood Plans.
2. Note the Capital estimates attributed to the My Neighbourhood Plans for inclusion in the Capital Programme.

DETAILS AND REASONING

In September 2011 Council approved the establishment of five My Neighbourhood Forums which covered the whole Borough. This was a new way of involving communities in the decision making process and is Member led following the recommendations of a cross party Community Involvement Member Working Group.

Each of the five My Neighbourhoods were asked to draw up a plan. This plan was to be drafted after consultation with the public and taking into account existing plans.

Since October 2011 there have been meetings across the Borough with members of the public to help identify priorities for the area. The meetings have been extremely well attended and people that have attended are from a good cross section of the community.

The Forums have been led by the Councillor Chair and Vice Chairs. All Borough Councillors have been involved in the decision making process. County Councillors have also attended the Forums. In relevant areas Parish Councillors have also attended and some partner agencies have shown support eg Police, Fire and New Progress Housing.

At all stages it has been made clear that the Council has limited resources and will not be able to do everything that the community wants it to do. It is a case of prioritising the work and it will require the Councillors and the communities to lead and work with other agencies to fund/deliver the priorities identified in the plan. Work on some of the priorities within the Plans have previously been identified as Council/Cabinet priorities and/or have had some preliminary works undertaken and information on the current position is given.

Each plan lists the top ten priorities identified by each Forum. These priorities are not laid out in order. The financial resources of the Council (capital and “core” funds) can only be allocated to the priorities in the plan. Once an item has been completed or the forum chooses to remove it, it can then be replaced by a project from the reserve list. The plan and the reserve list can be located on the dedicated My Neighbourhood Forum website (www.southribble.gov.uk/myneighbourhoods) and activity across the plan, including expenditure, will be regularly updated on the web pages.

The My Neighbourhood Plans show the nominal capital allocations recommended by the five My Neighbourhood Forums for inclusion in the capital programme. This nominal amount has been capped at £50,000 awaiting the Governance Committee report mentioned in the paragraph below. The timescales identified in the plan are an indicator and further work will be undertaken to ensure project programming across the borough is within the capacity of the authority.

In December 2011 the Governance Committee received a report on the decision making aspects of the My Neighbourhood arrangements for expenditure. Following recommendations from this committee further work is now being developed to introduce robust arrangements to control the release of capital monies. A report is scheduled to go to the Governance Committee in April.

The five My Neighbourhood Plans and the timetable of future My Neighbourhood Forum meetings are attached to the report.

WIDER IMPLICATIONS

In the preparation of this report, consideration has been given to the impact of its proposals in all the areas listed below, and the table shows any implications in respect of each of these. The risk assessment which has been carried out forms part of the background papers to the report.

<p>FINANCIAL</p>	<p>The Council’s medium-term financial strategy and budget plan includes a total annual “core fund” budget of £27,500 for the five My Neighbourhood Forums.</p> <p>The My Neighbourhood Plans show the nominal capital allocations recommended by the five My Neighbourhood Forums for inclusion in the capital programme. This amount has been “capped” at £50,000 awaiting Governance Committee consideration. They are subject to checks, particularly those that rely on the use of section 106 funding received by the Council.</p> <p>The total capital project costs may be higher than the Council’s allocations as they may include additional third party contributions. The capital projects included in the Plans will be subject to the Council’s procedures for approval. The revenue implications will need to be identified for these capital projects and the funding of any future revenue costs identified before they can be approved.</p>
<p>LEGAL</p>	<p>As the projects addressing the priorities evolve, if it is proposed to use section 106 monies to fund a particular scheme then the Legal services team will need to check whether the terms of the relevant section 106 agreement would permit such use.</p> <p>The vast majority of the section 106 monies we have should only be used for providing – or improving/enhancing – open space facilities within reasonable proximity to the planning site in question.</p>

RISK	<p>The full risk assessment forms part of the background papers to this report. The main points for consideration are summarised here:-</p> <p>Each of the Plans priorities will carry with them different risks.</p> <p>In general terms, this is a different way of working. It builds on the principles contained in the Localism Act 2011. The Council has limited resources and success of the plans will be how the community, led by the Councillors, will be galvanised into taking action themselves. This will not happen overnight. Activity to date has concentrated on producing the draft My Neighbourhood Plans themselves. Now the focus will change to action delivering the priorities. There are short term “wins” within each of the Plans. Action away from the forum meetings will determine if the community themselves work with the Council to sustain activity and deliver the outcomes in the Plans.</p>
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OTHER (see below)	<p>An equality impact assessment has been undertaken for each My Neighbourhood Plan.</p> <p>The Plans must be sustainable. Discussions have taken place with partners to ensure that the plans are supported by them. The South Ribble Partnership has been supportive of the arrangements. The success of this will be how the communities respond to the Plans; this could be in monetary terms or in practical assistance.</p>
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<i>Asset Management</i>	<i>Corporate Plans and Policies</i>	<i>Crime and Disorder</i>	<i>Efficiency Savings/Value for Money</i>
<i>Equality, Diversity and Community Cohesion</i>	<i>Freedom of Information/ Data Protection</i>	<i>Health and Safety</i>	<i>Health Inequalities</i>
<i>Human Rights Act 1998</i>	<i>Implementing Electronic Government</i>	<i>Staffing, Training and Development</i>	<i>Sustainability</i>

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Risk Assessment