



To
Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee

3rd November 2010

Subject
Coventry Partnership Progress Note

1 Purpose of the Note

- 1.1 To update the Committee on progress against the recommendations for the Coventry Partnership made at its meeting on 17th February, 2010.

2 Recommendation

- 2.1 That the Coventry Partnership improvement activities are noted and that Committee members identify any other areas for improvement.

3 Information/Background

- 3.1 In 2009, Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee established a review to understand how the Coventry Partnership is contributing effectively to the overall objectives of the Sustainable Community Strategy and the Local Area Agreement, thereby improving the quality of life for people in Coventry. The Committee identified the reasons for carrying out this piece of work as the need to ensure that the work of the Partnership adds value to the delivery of public services in Coventry and contributes to improved outcomes for the people of Coventry.
- 3.2 The Committee reviewed the work of four of the Partnership Theme Groups and received a report from the Chair of the Coventry Partnership for 2009/10 (Stephen Banbury, Chief executive of Voluntary Action Coventry).

4 Committee Recommendations and what has happened to date

- 4.1 The Committee identified four areas that the Coventry Partnership could take further action on improving. These areas are listed below with some examples of what has taken place to date to address them.
- 4.2 **Communications and Publicity** - improving publicity arrangements and developing a communications strategy aimed at raising public awareness of its role and achievements.

What has happened?

Community Cohesion Awards – Following on from the success of the Coventry Partnership Community Cohesion Conference in December last the Coventry Partnership Cohesion Awards, in conjunction with Coventry Ethnic Minority Action Partnership, were launched. The awards celebrated activities that have contributed to building cohesive communities and recognised the significant contribution that they make towards cohesion in the city. A total of 39 applications were received in five different categories covering: the public, private, voluntary and community sectors. The Awards were presented by the Deputy Lord Mayor in St. Mary's Guildhall on 21st July. Publicity of the awards was covered in the July edition of Citivision and a full page was allocated in the Evening Telegraph on 2nd August, 2010 – if purchased, such coverage would cost approximately £7,956.

The Big Lunch – This was promoted by the Partnership and took place on Sunday the 18th July, 2010. The big lunch was started by the Eden Project last year and this year ten lunches were held around Coventry. The Mayor shared food with Foleshill residents at the Godiva Mela in Edgewick Park. The Big Lunch was covered by both the Coventry Telegraph and the Observer – if purchased, such coverage would cost approximately £6021.

Coventry Partnership Website/Events Calendar - The Coventry Partnership website has been updated and has a fresher appeal with navigation and search facilities which are much easier and robust. An events Calendar has been added to the site to show what Partners are doing. A range of compliments from partners, students etc have been received indicating that the site contains extremely useful information and is kept up to date.

Website Visits – Over the last three years the number of visits to the Coventry Partnership website has increased from 16,600 (535 per day) in January 2008 to 23,733 (766 per day) in January 2010 – this indicates that more people are using the site to gain information and to view what is happening in the Partnership. This shows that our efforts to keep the website up to date are helping to improve communications as people do not tend to revisit if a site is not kept up to date.

- 4.3. **Performance Management** – It was recommended that work continue in this area given the importance of recording and evaluating initiatives centrally, in order to identify the Partnership's achievements and weaknesses.

What has happened?

Data Management System – The 'Facts About Coventry' system hosted on the Partnership's website contains a wide range of statistical data and performance information about Coventry and its people. The data is structured around the key priorities for Coventry, as well as demographic information for the city. The site is currently being used by Partners and will be launched more widely at the end of the year.

Work Programmes – the reporting programme for the Coventry Local Public Service Board and the Coventry Partnership Board have been drawn up for 2010 – 2011. The programmes are flexible but reflect priorities for improvement identified through external assessment and self evaluation, the schedule of strategic assessments covering issues such as community safety and the local economy performance priorities.

Performance Reports – Regular performance reports have been received by the CLPSB on the LAA Indicators and recommendations have been made. For instance: Under 18 Conception Rate – Head Teachers and Governors have been encouraged to ensure the Sexual Health and Relationship policy is a core package in schools – 12 out of 19 Schools have signed Service Level Agreements and a Triage Programme was delivered in the City Centre to reduce the number of admissions to A & E and to provide confidence in the night time economy.

Internal Performance Management – The Secretariat has identified areas where the Partnership is delivering added value and has put in place arrangements to record performance information under the following categories:

- Strategic Assessments and Strategies developed by the Partnership.
- Funding Secured/savings achieved
- Events Organised
- Publicity
- Joint Training commissioned
- Projects Initiated
- Improved Outcomes
- Improved Linkages
- Sub-Regional Working
- % of LAA Indicators achieving targets

- 4.4. **Finance** – Recommendation to obtain longer term funding for its work. Since the report funding streams have become very difficult to obtain but to date the Coventry Partnership has been successful in obtaining the following funding:

What has happened?

Learning 2 Deliver - An improvement Strategy bid for £50k was made to the Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnership so that the Partnership can work differently across the theme groups by seeking to understand more clearly the barriers that exist in the lifestyles of some families within the city and how the Partnership can address these through improved services.

Green Neighbourhoods – Funding has been obtained from the Neighbourhood Resource Centre for Central England to provide accredited training (20 days) to assist the development of a network of Climate Change Champions drawn from the most deprived neighbourhoods and Partnership organisations to mobilise neighbourhood action from the grass roots in developing a green neighbourhood concept. An action plan is being developed for approval by the Coventry Partnership.

Free Seminars for New and Migrant Communities – A range of seminars from September 2010 to January 2011 are being offered by the Coventry Partnership through the Migration Impact Fund. The Seminars cover: Discrimination Awareness; Your Home Your Rights; ACT Now; Healthy Body and Healthy Mind and Your Child Matters.

- 4.5. **Adapting to Change** – Recommendation to continue to ensure that its structures are sufficiently flexible to react quickly in a changing environment.

What has happened?

Review of the Sustainable Community Strategy - The Coventry Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) sets out the vision for Coventry from 2008 until 2028. Two years into the strategy we want to test to see if the priorities are still relevant.

The Review of the SCS has already pulled information together from a number of sources (the State of the City report, the Community Safety Strategic Assessment, the Household

Survey and the LAA performance data) to report on progress made on the key priorities. The review is being led by the Coventry Partnership. The public consultation on priorities is underway and will close on 30th November, 2010.

Sub-Regional Working – Links have been made with Warwickshire and Solihull Partnership and regular meetings have occurred. In order to learn more from each other a Partnership Support Officer has been working on Secondment in the Coventry Secretariat Office for two days per week August to October and from October to December it will be one day per week. This will be reciprocated in the New Year. The Partnership Offices have also linked up with the Sub-Regional Programme and will where possible help and support this delivery programme.

Links to Business in the Community (BITC) – The Coventry Secretariat have had several meeting with BITC and are working with them in a number of areas. These include the Business Class programme under which six businesses are working with six schools over a three year period to support mentoring and work placements.

5. **Next Steps**

- 5.1 The context in which local strategic partnerships operate has changed significantly since February when the Committee produced its report. This includes the loosening of the performance framework through abolition of the Comprehensive Area Assessment and the removal of government monitoring of Local Area Agreements as well as the introduction of Local Enterprise Partnerships. However, the way in which local partners agree priority outcomes and work together effectively to achieve them remains important – increasingly so in the current financial climate. Partners will obviously continually review the way they work together, building on the strong track record of joint working in Coventry.
- 5.2. At its next meeting on the 4th November, 2010, the Coventry Partnership will be looking at the impacts of the Comprehensive Spending Review on Partners and the implications for local services and the Partnership. Scrutiny Chairs have been invited to attend this meeting.
- 5.3 The SCS review will lead to the identification of a new set of short term priorities for Coventry and there will be opportunities for Councillors to contribute to this process. Once the review is completed, the Coventry Partnership will look to work even closer on cross-cutting links and delivery across the thematic groups to ensure that resources are utilised fully and duplication is avoided.
- 5.4. New performance measures will be established against priorities to measure success and these will be monitored through existing channels.
- 5.5 The Partnership will continue to work closely with all partners and other sub-regional bodies to ensure its residents have improved quality of life and to ensure the economic growth and vibrancy of the city.

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