

## CITY OF PLYMOUTH

**Subject:** Locality Working  
**Committee:** Compton and Peverell Area Committee  
**Date:** 16th November, 2009  
**Cabinet Member:** Councillor Peter Brookshaw  
**CMT Member:** Director for Community Services  
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**Ref:** NJM  
**Part:** I

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### **Executive Summary:**

A report responding to a request by the Area Committee on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2009 for an explanation on who agreed to the boundary arrangements (for locality working) on behalf of the city.

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### **Corporate Plan 2009-2012:**

Corporate Improvement Priority 4 – Key Milestone: ‘Carry out feasibility study on city wide model for locality and neighbourhood working in partnership with LSP’ and ‘Make recommendations on Council’s approach to locality and neighbourhood working in liaison with LSP’

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### **Implications for Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications: Including finance, human, IT and land**

None arising from this report.

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### **Other Implications: e.g. Section 17 Community Safety, Health and Safety, Risk Management, Equalities Impact Assessment, etc.**

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### **Recommendations & Reasons for recommended action:**

Information report only.

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### **Alternative options considered and reasons for recommended action:**

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### **Background papers:**

‘Locality working’ paper attached.

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**Sign off:** comment must be sought from those whose area of responsibility may be affected by the decision, as follows (insert initials of Finance and Legal reps, and of HR, Corporate Property, IT and Strat. Proc. as appropriate):

Fin		Leg		HR		Corp Prop		IT		Strat Proc	
Originating SMT Member CB											

# Locality Working

Report by the Director of Community Services

## 1.0 Introduction

1.1 This report is a response to a request by the Area Committee on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2009 for an explanation on who agreed to the boundary arrangements (for locality working) on behalf of the city.

## 2.0 Response

- 2.1 Plymouth has been divided into six areas called 'localities', each containing a number of existing 43 neighbourhoods.
- 2.2 Neighbourhoods were defined back in 2001 following public consultation and member involvement. In particular they were to be the basis for data gathering and neighbourhood renewal initiatives. They were defined primarily on the basis of 'best fit' for neighbourhood identity purposes, reflecting both physical and community boundaries, rather than political (ward) boundaries, which in many cases did not reflect community identity.
- 2.3 Since that time data has been collected and assigned on a Neighbourhood basis, and Neighbourhoods have formed the 'building blocks' for the City, used by City Council departments, Police and Health, for a range of data and information purposes, and for identifying, for example, pockets of deprivation.
- 2.4 However, neighbourhoods are too small for most administrative, service delivery, and consultation purposes. With the drive to achieve better service co-ordination across public sector, at the same time relate to reasonably local areas with identifiable social and economic characteristics, the concept of localities was developed. The lead came from partners within the Local Strategic Partnership, in particular Police and Health Authorities, which represents public, private and Third sector organisations across the city. An assessment was carried out by Plymouth Analysts' Network to develop a proposal that took into account then existing working arrangements and socio-economic factors.
- 2.5 Following this assessment, locality boundaries were agreed by the Local Strategic Partnership Executive at their meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> August 2008 (minute 7.5), with the Council and Police adopting Locality maps used by the NHS.
- 2.6 The decision of the Executive was endorsed by a meeting of the LSP Board Meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> September 2008 (minutes 4.3 (1)).
- 2.7 Since that time a number of services have moved to embody Localities as the basis for their organisational and data collection needs. Examples include Children's services, Health visitors, and Town Planning. Adult Social Care and related NHS services and Police and Community Safety are also moving that way. Government departments are recognising localities, for example the 2008/9 Place Survey was analysed on a Locality basis.
- 2.8 In July 2009 a public consultation on more detailed proposals for Locality working was launched using the Council's Consultation Portal. Although the LSP had taken a decision on Localities, no decision has yet been taken on how this might affect PCC and any decision will need to go through the full democratic processes. This is

reflected in the Forward Plan. In addition the issue is subject to consideration through the Scrutiny process.

- 2.9 The Customers and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel set up a Localities Working Task and Finish Group. At their first meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2009 the Group heard evidence from a number of invited witnesses. All Area Committee chairs had been invited to participate in this session.

Carole Burgoyne  
Director for Community Services  
05/11/09