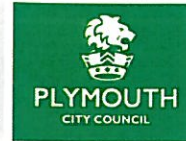


## **LOCALITIES AND NEIGHBOURHOOD WORKING - TWELVE MONTHS ON**



### **REPORT TO OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD TASK AND FINISH GROUP**

11 & 12 JULY 2011

Pete Aley

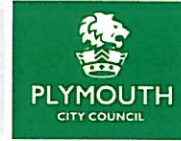
Assistant Director for Safer Communities

## **OBJECTIVES**



- Set by full Council Feb 2010 (following recommendation by O&S Management Board)
- Good community engagement at Neighbourhood level
- Improved joining up of key services at Locality level
- Strengthened role for Ward Councillors
- Improved availability and consistency of Neighbourhood data
- Review after 12 months

## CURRENT SITUATION



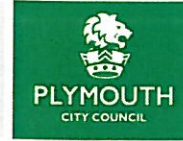
- Up and running since June 2010
- 6 multi-agency Locality Teams – ‘virtual teams’ (not public meetings)
- 43 Neighbourhood Liaison Officers appointed
- Approx. quarterly public meetings held in most of the 43 Neighbourhoods
- Joint working: Neighbourhood Liaison Officers, Councillors, Neighbourhood Police, Community Groups, etc
- Councillor Guidance issued July 2010
- ‘Your Neighbourhood’ web pages, including:
- Neighbourhood profiles & meeting records

## PERFORMANCE SO FAR (1)



- Over 1,600 attendances from members of public at 143 Neighbourhood meetings (average 11 per meeting)
- 92% of public satisfied or very satisfied (125 returned questionnaires)
- 92% PCC staff satisfied or very satisfied (24 responses)
- 65% Police staff satisfied or very satisfied (58 responses)
- 70% Councillors satisfied or very satisfied with Neighbourhood meeting process, 50% with Locality Teams (17 responses)

## PERFORMANCE SO FAR (2)



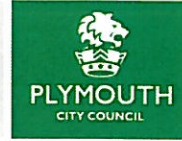
- 234 community priorities identified (ASB and highway issues dominate)
- 55% of priorities have been resolved or concluded, 44% have been followed up, 1% no action (excludes those only just identified)
- Other evaluation criteria largely met

## SOME SUCCESS STORIES



- Neighbourhood meetings a focus for local concerns, e.g. Mainstone play park improvements, solution for Greenbank Ambulance site, bus service changes, more grit bins in Plymstock
- Cleaner back streets achieved in East End
- 'Pay Back' team to maintain landscaping in Morice Town and around Devonport Column
- Community involved in litter picks in West Park, Bladder Meadow & Astor Park
- Promoted Public Place Order to tackle anti-social behaviour in Mutley & Greenbank
- Locality Teams supporting 'Peer Assist' stop smoking campaign in schools

## ISSUES



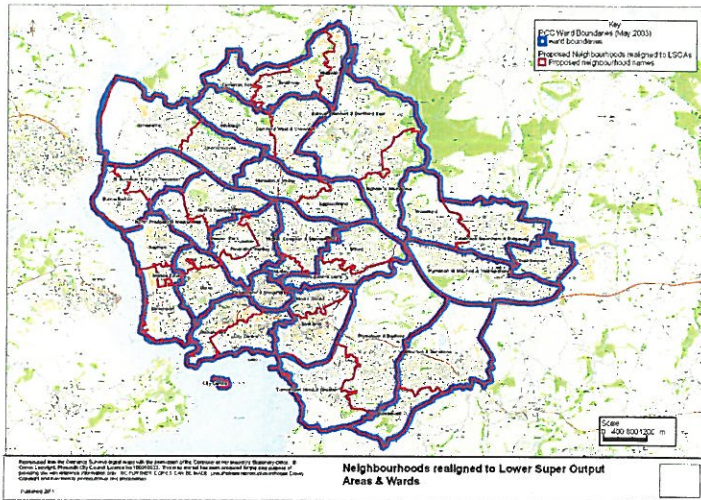
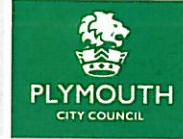
- Some inconsistency in staffing of Neighbourhoods  
– e.g. Councillor support, issue resolution
- Neighbourhood boundaries cause problems for democratic accountability (wards) and data collection (super output areas)
- More informal meetings don't suit everyone
- Few formal referrals to Locality Teams - underused
- Need to extend engagement beyond meetings
- Take account of wider resourcing issues

## POSSIBLE CHANGES (1)

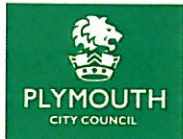


- Reduce or discontinue current 6 Locality Teams  
e.g. single 'trouble-shooting' team
- Realign Neighbourhood boundaries to fit within Wards and take account of 'Super Output Areas'

## REALIGNED NEIGHBOURHOOD MAP

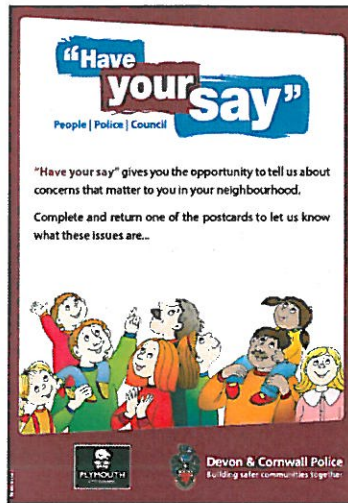
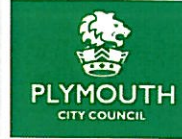


## POSSIBLE CHANGES (2)



- Support Neighbourhood meeting arrangements with a 'house rule' protocol, where requested
- Council Senior Management Team to support; one 'champion' per Ward
- Confirm 'Lead Ward Councillors' idea rescinded
- Better use of updated Neighbourhood profiles
- Engage community more widely, for example through feedback from surveys and improved joint engagement material

## INVOLVING MORE RESIDENTS

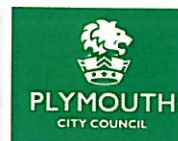


## WHAT THE CHANGES WOULD MEAN (1)



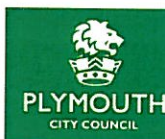
- Neat fit of Wards/Neighbourhoods and Super Output Areas
- Resource savings as fewer Neighbourhoods and (possibly) Locality teams
- Better engagement between SMT and Ward Councillors
- Chance to refresh process - new staff involved

## WHAT THE CHANGES WOULD MEAN (2)



- Reduced number of Neighbourhoods (43 to 39) whilst retaining local identity and convenience; most Wards to have just 2 Neighbourhoods
- Opportunity to take more flexible approach to number/nature of public meetings
- Reconsider the term 'locality working'? (but 'Locality working' in Children's Services unaffected)

## CONCLUSION



- Neighbourhood meetings provide good basis for further improvements
- Locality Teams need rethinking
- Key changes needed include boundaries, support for Councillors and wider engagement

