

# FAREHAM

## BOROUGH COUNCIL

### Report to the Executive for Decision 7 October 2013

<b>Portfolio:</b>	Leisure and Community
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Fareham Park Project – Action Plan</b>
<b>Report of:</b>	Director of Community
<b>Strategy/Policy:</b>	
<b>Corporate Objective:</b>	Maintain and extend prosperity; Strong and inclusive communities; Leisure opportunities for health and for fun.

#### **Purpose:**

To update the Executive on the progress of the Fareham Park initiative and approve the draft Action Plan for the future co-ordination of activities in the area, aimed at meeting the objectives of this key corporate priority.

#### **Executive summary:**

This report reviews the progress of the Fareham Park Project; an Officer and Member Steering Group which is tasked with identifying solutions and taking a co-ordinated approach to tackling the multiple issues associated with deprivation and poverty in the Fareham Park area of the Borough.

This report also proposes an Action Plan, which if agreed by the Executive, will guide the work of the Partnership over the next twelve months. It is hoped that the Action Plan will ensure that where possible, both resources and expertise are pooled to ensure maximum benefit is gained for local residents.

The Action Plan will encourage agencies and partners to work together and help address issues of local need. It is recognised that by improving access to a range of support services, opportunities and activities in the neighbourhood which are currently non-existent or difficult to access, will help in making a significant and lasting improvement in the area.

#### **Recommendation/Recommended Option:**

- a) That the progress of the Fareham Park Project be noted
- b) That the draft Action Plan be approved
- c) That the two priorities selected by the Steering Group be supported
- d) That the Executive receives an annual update on the progress of the project, as guided by the Action Plan.

**Reason:**

To provide elected members, partners and the wider community with information on the progress and developments within this important priority area, so that the effects of poverty and deprivation can be effectively tackled.

**Cost of proposals:**

A budget of £20,000 has already been approved by the Council to fund initiatives in the Fareham Park area, it is recognised that this can be used in association with the Action Plan to help improve opportunities in the area.

**Appendices:**

**A: Draft Action Plan – Fareham Park Project**

**B: Summary of Grants awarded through the Fareham Park Purse**

**Background papers:** Report to the Executive for Decision, 7 January 2013,  
Fareham Park Project – A Corporate Priority

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## BOROUGH COUNCIL

### Executive Briefing Paper

**Date:** 7 October 2013

**Subject:** Fareham Park Project – Action Plan

**Briefing by:** Director of Community

**Portfolio:** Leisure and Community

#### INTRODUCTION

1. Fareham Park continues to be recognised as one of the most deprived areas in the Borough. This is evidenced by both national and local deprivation indices. In 2010, the Council adopted the project as a Corporate Priority with the aim of working in partnership with the local community and other agencies to reduce deprivation and poverty in the area, in a strategic and coordinated manner.
2. This report provides a brief update on the progress of the Fareham Park Project and presents a draft Action Plan, with two key priority areas, which will guide the work of the Steering Group over the next 12 months and beyond.

#### RECENT PROGRESS

3. **Fareham Park Purse & Fareham Park Fun Day:** Following a successful application to Hampshire County Council, 'Have Your Say' funding of £17,500 was secured for Fareham Borough Council. Agreement was reached with Fareham Borough County Councillors (Councillors Bryant, Ellis, Evans, Hockley, Knight, Price and Woodward), who supported the allocation of the total funds to the Fareham Park Project. In order to develop and engage the community into positively addressing needs in the area, the funds were locally branded as the 'Fareham Park Purse' (FPP) and local clubs, community groups and organisations were invited to apply for funding.
4. Part of the criteria of the 'Have Your Say' funding was the involvement of local residents in the decision-making process. To facilitate this, the Fareham Park Fun Day was held on 20 July. All of the applicants that had applied for funding were invited to host a stand at the fun day to promote their project. As well as providing an opportunity for local people to support the projects they would wish to see developed, the event also enabled some informal consultation to be conducted with local residents to find out their views on the neighbourhood that they live in. Over 500 local residents, children and families attended the Fun Day and took part in a host of free and interactive opportunities. The Fareham Park Steering Group has since used the information gathered in assisting with drafting the action plan.

5. A total of 313 votes were cast and following ratification with the member panel (established to oversee the process), nine projects were supported from the FPP; including two providers each receiving funding for two separate projects. Additionally three further projects were diverted to the CATS Community Funding stream for support and two projects were withdrawn because they were considered not to meet the criteria.
6. The administration of grants is now taking place and monitoring arrangements will be put in place to assess the community value of the funding awarded.
7. **Fareham Park Steering Group:** The Steering Group is meeting regularly to review and direct future development in the neighbourhood. The membership of the Group has been widened to include officer and member representation from Hampshire County Council, Fareham Local Children's Partnership and Oak Meadow Children's Centre.
8. **Research:** The Project Officer continues to track the most up-to-date data so that an accurate neighbourhood profile can be collated to guide and influence the work of the Partnership. Some sources of data have proved particularly challenging to secure, most notably health data and accurate statistics on Under 18 Conceptions at electoral ward level and below (i.e. super output area).
9. **Action Plan and priority setting:** Attached at Appendix A is a draft Action Plan which has been developed to direct and focus future development. It is proposed that in order to co-ordinate priorities with the most pressing needs, two key areas for initial concentration be identified.
10. Each representative was asked to confirm two key priority areas to be tackled initially, from the seven themes outlined in the Action Plan. A strong consensus of opinion proposed that the partnership should lead with two linking priorities, these are:
  - i – Young People (11-19)*
  - ii – Children (specifically those under 5's) and their families*
11. Subsequently, the next meeting will see further representatives invited from the local community including schools, youth providers, Police and Fire Service in order to move these priority areas forward, pooling expertise and review where resources can best be utilised.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

12. A revenue budget of £20,000 has been set aside to assist community based projects in the area. It is also hoped that other funding will be secured as projects emerge and funding streams are identified to support relevant activity.
13. The Project Officer post, which was recruited to in April 2013, is separately funded and a commitment has been made to maintaining this funding on a fixed term contract for three years.
14. The government have recently announced a wider roll out of Our Place a programme designed to give people more power over their local services and budgets in a neighbourhood and aligning these with all the other resources that the local community can bring. Officers have already registered an interest in joining the programme and applying for some of the £4.3m funding when it is

rolled out later this year. Meanwhile Councillor Hockley (in her role as chairman of the Steering group) and the Project Officer will be attending a workshop in October to learn more about the pilot projects and how to apply for funding.

15. In addition, Hampshire County Council has recently announced Public Health Funding of £0.5m for local communities. The Project Officer will review the bidding criteria (when announced) and submit a funding application if eligible.

## **CONCLUSION**

16. This report provides an update on the progress of the Fareham Park Partnership and work in the Fareham Park area to tackle issues associated with poverty and deprivation. Members are asked to support the proposed Action Plan which if agreed, will direct the strategic focus and work of the Partnership over the next twelve months.
17. The development of an Action Plan will also help secure the support and commitment of other agencies and partners so that full benefit can be secured for local residents living in the area.

## **Background Papers:**