

## Appendix

### Area Partnership - response

- We need to find subjects and speakers that will attract the community to engage.
- Consider meeting timings – remember people work.
- Find topics that are relevant to people across all communities.
- Area Partnerships should be Council Committees.
- There needs to be a clearer picture of the purpose of the Area Partnership.
- It is important that larger communities are not able to dominate decision-making over smaller communities.
- The Community Assistance Hub is a very successful and effective model at providing a sense of community
- Most people do not know about the Area Partnership.
- What are the outcomes of discussions and decisions? Good ideas need to be translated into actions.
- Community Councils have differing roles and priorities across the locality – dependent on the size of the community they represent.
- Area Partnership meetings need to be better advertised and should feature a major speaker to attract interest – not necessarily linked to Council business.
- There is a need to make the APs more representative of the local community. Increased representation of local groups and more diverse in all aspects. Business representation, local festivals and organisations.

- There is a need for the APs to be able to practically influence decisions affecting service delivery by the Council and other Partners.
- There is a need by the community to have a better understanding of how services are delivered to their locality by the Council and Partners. In relation to Council services it should be able to provide enhanced information on Council spending and service delivery by locality. When this information is put alongside statistical information relating to need this should mean that APs can have informed discussions about priorities and make suggestions for improvements – including the ability to supplement SBC services with community directed initiatives using additional funding (Community Fund).

## Community Fund - response

**Criteria for funding** – Each Area Partnership should agree its own criteria for funding from the Community Fund. These should be established by contribution and discussion at an Area Partnership meeting dedicated to this process.

### **The process**

- It is vital that people feel they are being involved in the assessment of each application and that the process more transparent – consider a shortlisting process
- Short-listed applications should be advertised and information provided in advance of the AP meeting
- Concern that bigger communities secure more funding than smaller ones. Need a mechanism to make sure distribution is fair.
- Giving a proportion of what is asked for (where fund is over-subscribed for example) is not always a good solution – need to check what effect this would have on the viability of the project.

**Decision-making** – as is currently the agreed process, where there is consensus for an application it will be approved by an Area Partnership meeting without any vote. Short-listing would help to provide consensus as would providing information in advance.

- The key is to educate the community on budgeting priorities and the effects of decision-making. This is what **real** Participative Budgeting is about.

- Meetings need to have a focus and be more specific. Debates could be held on major changes to Council policy as a stage in the process.
- Resource should be provided to increase community engagement – “meaningful listening”
- Resources should be provided to assist Community Councils with projects