



## CABINET REPORT

<b>Report Title</b>	<b>Community Wellbeing Partnership</b>
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**AGENDA STATUS: PUBLIC**

<b>Cabinet Meeting Date:</b>	July 9 <sup>th</sup> , 2014
<b>Key Decision:</b>	No
<b>Within Policy:</b>	Yes
<b>Policy Document:</b>	No
<b>Directorate:</b>	Housing and Wellbeing
<b>Accountable Cabinet Member:</b>	David Mackintosh
<b>Ward(s)</b>	All

### 1. Purpose

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- 1.1 This report proposes that Northampton Borough Council (the Council) should engage with partners to promote community wellbeing in Northampton. Furthermore, that in order to do so, it should act as the lead partner in bidding for funding to deliver services which will support community wellbeing.
- 1.2 For the purpose of this report, wellbeing includes physical, emotional and social aspects of life, recognising the inter-related impacts of healthy lifestyle, mental wellbeing, social connections, and economic engagement. Community wellbeing implies active, engaged and vibrant communities where individuals can achieve their potential.

### 2. Recommendations

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- 2.1 That Cabinet should delegate to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader:
  - 2.1.1 the power to bid for resources on behalf of a Northampton Community Wellbeing partnership
  - 2.1.2 the power to enter into contracts for the delivery of such services,

- 2.1.3 To take any actions required, direct or ancillary for the procurement and delivery of Community Wellbeing services in Northampton.
- 2.2 That partnership development costs should be met from underspends in existing budgets in the Housing and Wellbeing Service during 2014/15, if possible, but that if necessary monies should be drawn down from the Service Improvement Reserve. A Partnerships Officer will be employed to work with agencies, including in bid preparation, and costs of this work up to 31.12.14 could total up to £45,000. Support to the officer will be provided from within existing contracts for legal, financial and procurement advice through LGSS.

### **3. Issues and Choices**

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#### **3.1 Report Background**

- 3.1.1 The Council has a history of working with other agencies and community groups to promote wellbeing of individuals and communities. This has included services provided directly by the Council, such as Independent Living, those delivered by other agencies, such as the Leisure Trust, and support to smaller organisations to deliver through advice and grant aid.
- 3.1.2 The Council has extensive powers to act to promote community wellbeing through its General Powers of Competence.
- 3.1.3 Some services which support community wellbeing were previously funded by the Northamptonshire County Council (NCC) "Prevention and demand Management Grant", or other sources. NCC intends to tender these services jointly with Nene and Corby Clinical Commissioning Groups, in July 2014. In order to be part of delivery, the Council therefore needs to respond to this invitation, and seek alternative sources of funding, during summer 2014.

#### **3.2 Issues**

- 3.2.1 In developing a partnership, it will only be able to effectively deliver services if it is successful in bidding for funding to do so.
- 3.2.2 If the partnership is successful, there will be a need to work with local providers to establish a new method of delivery to meet the needs and aspirations of local communities, as well as of funding bodies.

#### **3.3 Choices (Options)**

- 3.3.1 The proposed option is for the Council to form a partnership and to bid for resources. Leading a partnership would enable local providers, who deliver excellent services in local communities, developing social capital and promoting community cohesions, as well as supporting individuals, to continue to work locally in partnership with The Council. The Council would have an active role, working in partnership with others, in shaping the services – both funded and voluntary – that support the health and wellbeing of local communities. If the bid succeeds, the partnership will also be able to attract

other resources, and to steer the delivery of effective services at a local level, working with a wide range of community and third sector groups.

- 3.3.2 The alternative option is for the Council not to bid but to leave it to NCC to procure these services for the Borough. This may be a successful approach and if the Council bids and does not succeed, it will still need to work in partnership with the local Health and Wellbeing Board to try to ensure effective delivery of the services required. However, local providers have expressed concern about the risk that services will be awarded to a provider with little understanding of/empathy with local issues, and have asked the Council to take an active lead.
- 3.3.3 There is a risk, associated with not bidding, that the contract may be awarded to a provider who does not support local concerns, and a risk that local providers may have to stop working with the community.

## **4. Implications (including financial implications)**

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### **4.1 Policy**

- 4.1.1 The report does not set policy but shows how the Council can deliver on existing objectives. However, if the partnership is successful, there will need to be a clearer strategy for Community wellbeing established to shape the way in which services are delivered in future

### **4.2 Resources and Risk**

- 4.2.1 The financial implications of partnership development work are set out in the recommendations. If the partnership is successful in bidding for funds, there will be a need to commit further resources during the period October 2014-March 2015, but these costs should be covered by income and thus there should be no direct impact on the Council's budgets. LGSS Finance officers are engaged in the Wellbeing Project team to evaluate the financial risks at all stages of the process.
- 4.2.2 The Council will carry an additional risk associated with its role as the Lead Partner. There are options for mitigating this risk over the longer term. One of the financial risks associated with bidding is that the funding from the County Council is unlikely to be guaranteed. As such, if the Council is successful with its bid, it faces the risk that funding may reduce, or potentially even cease, over the medium term. To manage this risk the Council will undertake as part of the development of the bid to fully assess the financial exposure and identify ways to mitigate it and any associated risks with minimal impact
- 4.2.3 There are reputational risks associated with the alternative option of not engaging in supporting local communities, but there will also be reputational risks of working with providers to change the shape of local services, which will need to be managed sensitively.
- 4.2.4 Whether or not the Council forms a partnership, the new climate of funding support means that there are financial risks to the Council and to NPH in terms of diminishing resources available to support services.

### **4.3 Legal**

4.3.1 Legal advice is required in forming the partnership, in issues relating to procuring services as a lead partner and in terms of implications for staff currently working for the Council on services related to community wellbeing. Legal and financial advice has been sought from LGSS.

### **4.4 Equality and Health**

4.4.1 Community wellbeing services are essential to ensuring that people with a range of vulnerabilities and with protected characteristics are supported to access services, and support, as they need it. The proposed partnership draws in a very wide range of agencies to work in collaboration together to serve the local community.

4.4.2 Agencies are currently working together on bid documentation, and if the bid is successful, the wider partnership will work closely together on service redesign, including the plans for implementation, to ensure that

- Current service users are protected during the change process
- Vulnerable groups are considered, their needs identified, and services take account of their special characteristics
- Staff in all partner agencies have the necessary skills and training to deliver the proposed service effectively

4.4.3 The proposed partnership will deliver services that address physical and mental wellbeing issues, as well as broader support, to consider health issues alongside the wider determinants of health, and meet the needs of those at risk.

### **4.5 Consultees (Internal and External)**

4.5.1 Legal and Finance staff (LGSS) are engaged in the project delivery group. Housing and Customer Contact Management Staff are also involved in developing plans. Externally, a wide range of partners are engaged.

### **4.5 How the Proposals deliver Priority Outcomes**

4.6.1 Community wellbeing is important in helping the Council to achieve its corporate priorities, as set out in the Corporate Plan 2012-15. The plan focusses on “Your Town” – jobs growth needs local people who are ready to take up employment – and on “You” – recognising the challenges that local people face, and the important role the Council plays in supporting them through:

- 4.6 Promoting health and wellbeing
- 4.7 Creating empowered communities
- 4.8 Responding to your needs

4.6.2 Delivering services in partnership further supports the corporate plan, by seeking to “make every £ go further”, including not only NBC’s own resources, but best use of public funds in a wider sense.

## **5. Background Papers**

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**5.1** Prior Information Notice issued by NCC

<http://www.sourcenorthamptonshire.co.uk/contracts/show/id/10633>

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