

Subject: Strengthening Community
Leadership

Status: For Publication

Report to: The Cabinet

Date: 15 November 2006

Report of: Chief Executive

Portfolio

Holder: Leader of Council

Key Decision: YES

Forward Plan

General Exception

Special Urgency

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to set out a proposed way forward for Rossendale Borough Council in strengthening its Community Leadership role.

2. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- 2.1 Strategic Objectives - strong Community Leadership supports the achievement of all eight of the Council's objectives
- 2.2 Corporate Priorities
Promoting Rossendale – This is a key aspect of Community Leadership.
Partnerships – Community Leadership requires partnership working locally, in the sub-region, region and nationally.

3. RISK ASSESSMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 All the issues raised and the recommendation(s) in this report involve risk considerations as set out below:
- 3.2 Lack of strong community leadership would mean the Council not fully engaged with local communities and does not fully act as champion and advocate for the Borough and its people.

4. BACKGROUND AND OPTIONS

4.1 The Progress Assessment (2005) produced by the Audit Commission identified Community Leadership as an area for further development. The Council had already agreed that the next stage of its improvement journey required the development of this area in order to achieve the best possible quality of life for local people. Actions to develop our approach are identified in the Corporate Improvement Plan 2006-2009. This report is part of delivering our Corporate Improvement Plan.

4.2 Early in 2006, the Council took part in the I&DeA's Community Leadership Fitness Check. This was an important learning exercise, identifying that some elements of strengthening community leadership are already in place but highlighting other areas where further developments are needed. The Fitness Check report provides a useful starting point for developing our approach to Community Leadership.

4.3 Options Considered

Recommended Option – To adopt the Policy Statement and Action Plan set out in Appendix 1 to this report.

Amend the Policy Statement/Action Plan – The Policy Statement contains a definition of Community Leadership in Rossendale together with outcomes and key activities. This could be adopted subject to amendments at the meeting.

Do not approve Policy Statement – The Policy Statement and Action Plan are not adopted.

5. COMMENTS OF THE HEAD OF FINANCIAL SERVICES

5.1 The action plan highlights a number of financial matters in relation to Improvement through Financial Management which demonstrate Member development in Community Leadership

6. COMMENTS OF THE HEAD OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

6.1 The adoption of a Policy Statement and Action Plan on Community Leadership fall within the Legal and Democratic Services Business Plan.

6.2 The recent achievements of the North West Charter for Member Development is an essential part of enabling Members to have the necessary skills and capacity to take forward their role of Community Leadership.

7. COMMENTS OF THE HEAD OF HUMAN RESOURCES

7.1 The Organisational Development Plan and the Member Development Strategy identify how the role of Members in relation to Community Leadership is delivered.

8. CONCLUSION

- 8.1 Community Leadership is a key role of Rossendale Borough Council and improving our approach is central to the next stage of our improvement journey.

9. RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 10.1 To adopt the Community Leadership Policy Statement and Action Plan.

10. CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

- 10.1 Elected Members have been consulted on the principles in the Policy statement through a Member Development event on 6 November 2006.

The Policy Statement and Action Plan have been considered by the Overview and Scrutiny policy Task Group on 2 November 2006.

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Background Papers	
Corporate Improvement Plan	
Community Leadership Fitness Check – I&DeA	