

Subject:
Capacity Building Approach

Status:
For Publication

Report to:
Cabinet

Date:
21 February 2007

Report of: Chief Executive

Portfolio Holder: The Leader

Key Decision: NO (Matter for Council Approval)

Forward Plan General Exception Special Urgency

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The report sets out the Policy Statement in relation to Rossendale Borough Council's Capacity Building Approach. This approach reflects the fact that, in order to achieve the Council's priorities, and contribute towards the objectives of the Community Strategy, the Borough Council needs to work in partnership with a wide range of groups and organisations.
- 1.2 This Policy Statement relates to the Community Leadership Policy Statement with its focus on 'building skills and capacity' and also to the Partnership Working Policy Statement with its focus on improved governance of partnerships in which the Council is engaged.

2. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- 2.1 The matters discussed in this report are linked to and support the following corporate priorities:

The approach underpins the delivery of all our corporate priorities, but is directly relevant to:

- Revenues and Benefits Partnership
- StreetScene and Liveability Partnership

3. RISK ASSESSMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 There are no specific risk issues for members to consider arising from this report.

4. BACKGROUND AND OPTIONS

- 4.1 The Corporate Improvement Plan 2006-09 identified that Rossendale Borough Council cannot deliver its agenda for change – either internally or within the wider community – by working alone. Local councils have traditionally been the direct provider of a wide range of services but there are now opportunities to bring greater investment or capacity into the borough by providing these services in different ways.
- 4.2 However, this Policy Statement recognises that capacity building is not just about different methods of service delivery. Many of the issues facing communities today require them to take some responsibility as well as ownership of the actions. A good example is recycling – where we provide the infrastructure but need the involvement of local people in order to achieve success.
- 4.3 So capacity building includes developing diversity of service provision, as well as building the understanding and involvement of local people to ensure we co-produce the outcomes that matter for the borough. Alongside this, we remain committed to the continuous improvement of those services and functions we provide directly – and we work in a range of ways to ensure learning, development and doing things better.
- 4.4 To capture and manage our diversity of provision we are developing our Capacity Building approach. This is set out in full in the appended Policy Statement which reflects the range of ways in which we are increasing our operational capacity beyond that of the Council's own direct capacity.

5. COMMENTS OF THE HEAD OF FINANCIAL SERVICES

- 5.1 There are no immediate financial implications arising from the report.

6. COMMENTS OF THE HEAD OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

- 6.1 There are no immediate legal implications.

7. COMMENTS OF THE HEAD OF HUMAN RESOURCES

- 7.1 There are no human resource implications.

8. CONCLUSION

- 8.1 The Policy Statement provides a more formalized approach to some of the work already undertaken by Rossendale Borough Council, but broadens it from a focus on commissioning. This approach reflects much of the thinking in the recent White Paper: Strong and Prosperous Communities in relation to different approaches to service delivery such as shared services and commissioning.

9. RECOMMENDATION

- 9.1 That the Policy Statement is approved.

10. CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

10.1 Heads of Service have been consulted on the development of this approach.

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Background Papers	
Document	Place of Inspection
Corporate Improvement Plan 2006-2009 Strong and Prosperous Communities	www.rossendale.gov.uk www.communities.gov.uk