

Subject: Rossendale Forum – Changes and Transition for the Local Partnership **Status:** For Publication

Report to: Council **Date:** 23rd February 2011

Report of: Communities Manager

Portfolio Holder: Leader of the Council

Key Decision: Yes

Forward Plan General Exception Special Urgency

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform Council of the recent review of the Rossendale Partnership (LSP), and the changes and transition of the local partnership as an outcome of that review.

2. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- 2.1 The matters discussed in this report impact directly on the following corporate priorities:-
- Delivering quality Services to our customers
 - Delivering regeneration across the Borough
 - Encouraging healthy and respectful communities
 - Keeping our Borough clean, green and safe
 - Promoting the Borough
 - Providing value for money services

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 Not to review the partnership arrangements in Rossendale could affect the Council and its partners ability to deliver better services within a framework that focuses on strengthening the role of elected members as community champions. But as importantly, it is about empowering local people so they can influence how and by who services are delivered in their community.
- 3.3 The risk of not implementing the proposal may impact on the Council's ability to attract new and emerging funding as the Government's focus in the Localism

Bill is about allocating 'Locality Budgets' to authorities that demonstrate a drive and commitment to devolving power to local people and their communities.

- 3.4 Not implementing the Rossendale Forum could detrimentally affect the reputation of the Council with the members of the partnership and the wider community who have been involved in the development of the revised Rossendale Forum. This could further impact on future successful working between the Council and the community, which would go against the government's vision of decentralisation.
- 3.5 Although it is recognised that the Council should demonstrate leadership in delivering and supporting partnership working, ultimately the successful delivery of the Rossendale Forum, Neighbourhood Forums and Rossendale Issues Groups is reliant on all partners working together providing support and assistance either financial or physical.

4. BACKGROUND AND OPTIONS

- 4.1 In the context of this report it is worth noting that one of the drivers of the concept of localism is about "Devolving decisions down to a community, street and individual level".
- 4.2 What this report demonstrates locally, and to the wider world is that Rossendale is well placed to deliver against the Localism Bill. The new Neighbourhood Forum arrangements introduced just over a year ago have proven to be highly successful and have formed the catalyst for the review of the wider partnership.
- 4.3 Driven and enabled by this re-invigorated focus on localism, removed burdensome external performance management constraints, the removal of external bureaucracy, controls and barrier, the Rossendale Partnership recognised the need to be proactive in reviewing where it needs to be as a local partnership, not only position itself best to operate in the new changing environment but moreover enabling a better way of partnerships working to really local issues in a focused and joined up way.
- 4.4 The review did consider ceasing a formal local partnership. However, partners recognised there was still a need and desire for this partnership locally to add value, but that it needed to change. At the heart of the review is the recognition that the resources available needed to be used effectively and membership should be focused on 'issues' that matter thus enabling buy-in and accountability across traditional structural boundaries. This approach is moving away from complex/layered hierarchical structures, traditional meetings covering numerous matters to action based issues involving the relevant partners (public sector, community, or business) thus ensuring the best use of time and resource, but most importantly delivering real outcomes for people locally.
- 4.5 At an inaugural meeting of the Rossendale Forum on 17th January 2011 they endorsed new Terms of Reference that in essence moved the partnership approach in Rossendale towards a structure (see **Appendix A**) that has:

- Neighbourhood Forums positioned at the core of the partnership. The Forums produce and deliver against action plans that reflect the diverse contrast of each area of the Borough and connect directly with people in our communities and streets.
 - A Rossendale Forum that acts as a 'Borough Wide Executive' which will oversee the development and delivery of the Sustainable Community Strategy and scope out the priorities for the Borough to be delivered via Rossendale Issues Groups (RIGs).
 - Rossendale Issues Groups (RIGs) that will focus on and address the 'knotty' problems it has been established to tackle by the Neighbourhood Forums and Rossendale Forum. The membership of the RIG will be made up of those public, private or third sector organisations that can influence a positive outcome.
- 4.6 It is an aspiration of the Council and its partners that it will move towards commissioning services to deliver against priorities identified through the Neighbourhood Forum, Rossendale Forum and RIG's. This principle is being referred to as "Locality Budgeting" - a process of inter-organisational development and co-ordination of budgets for commissioning expenditure against joint priorities relevant to community and neighbourhood needs.

COMMENTS FROM STATUTORY OFFICERS:

5. SECTION 151 OFFICER

- 5.1 Any financial implications arising will be managed within existing budget resources.

6. MONITORING OFFICER

- 6.1 There are no legal implications.

7. HEAD OF PEOPLE AND POLICY (ON BEHALF OF THE HEAD OF PAID SERVICE)

- 7.1 There are no HR implications.

8. CONCLUSION

- 8.1 The local partnership will now be known as the Rossendale Forum. Its approach will be more one of targeted actions and outcome focused through Rossendale Issue Groups taking a task and finish based approach to issues with a clear evidence base.
- 8.2 The partnership model has been widened to enable community involvement and embedding our Neighbourhood Forum arrangements into the partnership. The Rossendale Forum will have a clear purpose to pursue Rossendale's

priorities as set out in the Sustainable Community Strategy and identified through the Neighbourhood Forums as well as any new priorities that occur.

8.3 In summary the new partnership arrangements are:

- Flatter in structure
- Less bureaucratic focused on issues and action not performance indicators
- Driven by the community from the bottom up
- Focused on outcomes that are important to Rossendale.
- Is flexible and has the ability to react swiftly to any changes either national, regionally or locally.
- Gets partners involved where they can make a difference not feel that they have to get involved.
- Rossendale Issues Groups that are 'task and finish' issues and outcome focused.

9. RECOMMENDATION(S)

9.1 That Council note the content of the report and endorse the development of the Rossendale Forum.

9.2 That all future minor amendments to the Rossendale Forum partnership arrangements to be delegated to the Communities Manager in consultation with the Portfolio Holder.

10. CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

10.1 Consultation has been undertaken with the former LSP Executive and Theme Group membership, the Council's Management Team, Portfolio Holder and Neighborhood Forums.

11. COMMUNITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Is a Community Impact Assessment required ~~Yes~~ / No

Is a Community Impact Assessment attached ~~Yes~~ / No

12. BIODIVERSITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Is a Biodiversity Impact Assessment required ~~Yes~~ / No

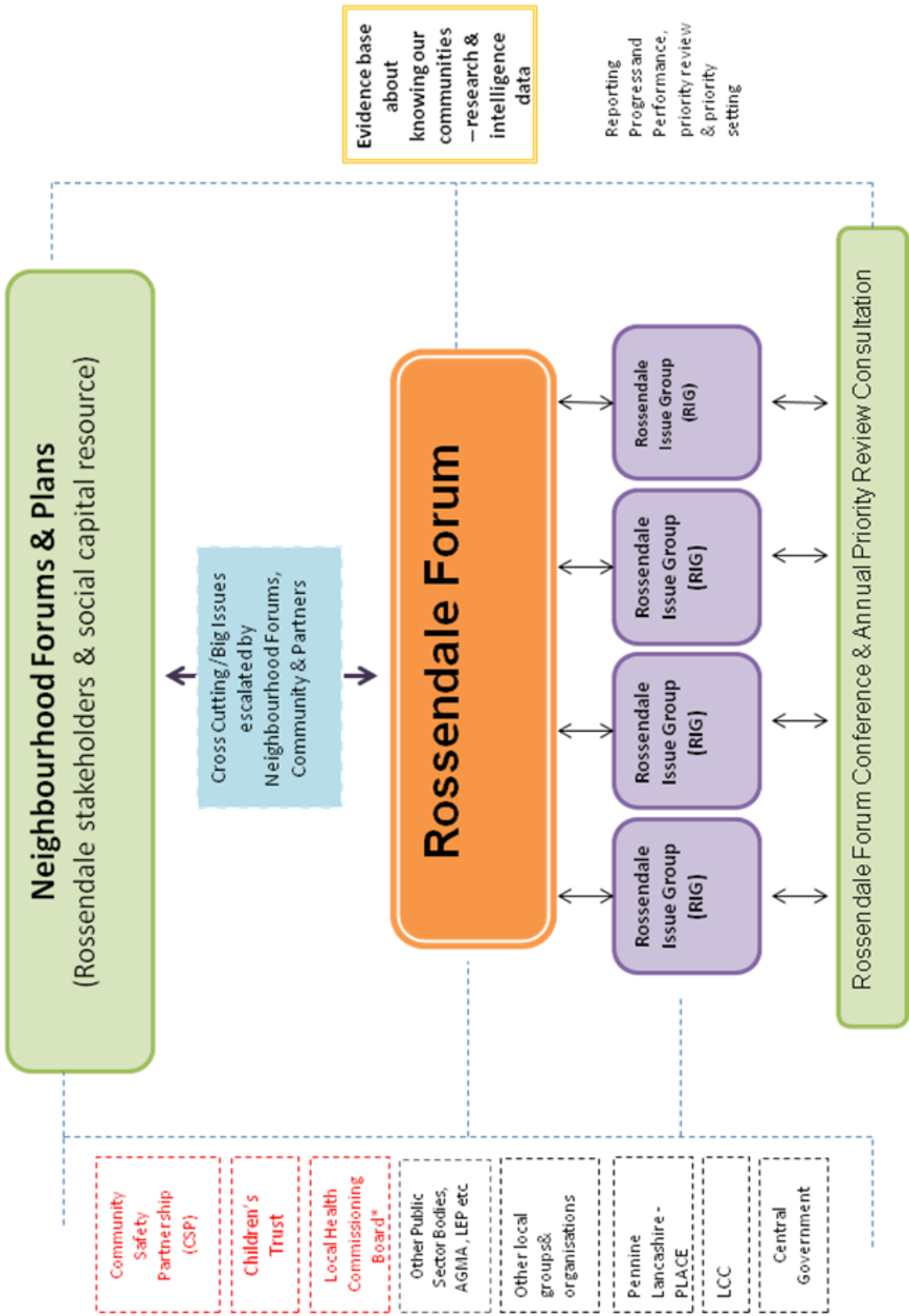
Is a Biodiversity Impact Assessment attached ~~Yes~~/ No

Contact Officer	
Name	Mike Riley /Emma Hussain
Position	Communities Manager /Principal Policy Officer
Service / Team	Communities / People & Policy
Telephone	01706 252412 / 01706 252451
Email address	michaelriley@rossendalebc.gov.uk / emmahussain@rossendalebc.gov.uk

Background Papers	
Document	Place of Inspection
Sustainable Community Strategy 2008-2018	http://www.rossendale.gov.uk/downloads/SCS - _final.pdf

Item F3 - Appendix A

ROSSENDALE FORUM



Rossendale Forum Membership

- Leader of the Council x1
- Chief Executive of the Council – or nominated representative x1
- Neighbourhood Forum Chairs x 4 (one per Forum)
- Neighbourhood Forum Community representative, to be determined by the membership of the Neighbourhood Forums themselves x4 (one per forum)
- Greenvale Homes representative x1
- East Lancs PCT representative x1
- Lancashire Police Constabulary representative x1
- Lancashire Fire & Rescue Service representative x1
- Lancashire County Council Elected Member (Rossendale Councillor) x1
- Community Safety Partnership (CSP) representative x1
- Children's Trust representative x1
- A place for a representative from the forthcoming local public health board/GP commissioning board¹ x 1
- A place for a wider Third sector (voluntary, community and faith) representative, to be determined by the membership of the sector itself x 1
- A place for a wider business sector representative, to be determined by the membership of the sector itself x1

Others organisations/agencies not specifically identified on the new Rosendale Forum membership will be invited to participate in/contribute to the relevant Rossendale Issue Groups where appropriate.

A limited number of supporting Officers will also attend Rossendale Forum meeting in a supporting capacity only, this includes, the Borough and County Council.

¹ Arrangements as set out in the Public Health White Paper still emerging. Yet to be confirmed.