

MEETING:

Barnet Partnership Board

Date:

30 January 2017

REPORT OF:

Cath Shaw
Deputy Chief Executive (Interim)

SUMMARY AND PURPOSE OF REPORT:

To seek agreement to the five partnership themes

INPUT REQUESTED FROM BARNET PARTNERSHIP BOARD:

To review and agree the five themes for working together outlined in the paper

CONTACT FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

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Overview

1. The purpose of this paper is to outline the five proposed themes for working together across the partnership, and to highlight existing work and opportunities for future collaboration that falls under these themes. The themes are:
 - Entrepreneurial Barnet
 - Community participation
 - Use of assets
 - Smart cities
 - Arts and culture
2. This paper asks for agreement on using these themes as a basis for working together and setting the context for the partnership. The aim is that these themes will underpin the agendas of future Partnership Board meetings.

The Five Partnership ThemesEntrepreneurial Barnet

3. This theme is about supporting our residents and businesses to get the most out of the opportunities that local growth brings to the borough, therefore updates on major regeneration projects, including Brent Cross, will form a key part of this theme.
4. The Entrepreneurial Barnet Board includes a range of public sector partners including Middlesex University, Barnet and Southgate College, and Job Centre Plus, and

focuses on realising the vision of making Barnet the best place in London to be a small business, grouped around five objectives: getting the basics right; a great place to live, work and invest; skilled employees and entrepreneurs; access to markets; and business growth.

5. This theme covers targeted outreach to support young people and those at risk of being left behind, as well as reducing barriers to employment through employment and skills support, and matching skills to local employment opportunities. Examples of existing projects in this scope include 'Working People, Working Places' (better known as "BOOST"), the 'Skills Escalator', and 'Opportunities for Young People'.
6. The Apprenticeship Levy which comes into force from 6 April 2017 will also fall under this theme.

Community participation

7. The Council's Corporate Plan 2015-2020 has an objective to create 'more involved, resilient communities'. The Council's vision is to develop a new relationship with residents that enable them to be independent and resilient and to take on greater responsibility for their local areas. This approach is consolidated within the Community Participation Strategy (CPS) and the work within this theme will complement the CPS.
8. Work in the scope of this theme covers anything that promotes community engagement and involvement in services, and work to facilitate the building of community capacity – the willingness and ability of the community to carry out civic responsibilities. This helps to build 'resilience' in the community meaning that residents are able to draw on available resource to solve local problems, and remain independent of statutory services.
9. This theme covers community outreach work, and encouraging more community involvement in the future of the local area. The aim is to reduce demand on services through empowering and equipping the community to be more resilient and enabling them to have a greater role in the design and delivery of services.
10. The emphasis here is currently on green spaces, leisure, and public health (although this theme is not limited to these areas), for example, the council has engaged with local residents and community groups to coordinate the development of the Copthall Sports and Recreation estate in Mill Hill. The Copthall Plan aims to deliver a range of sports and physical activities, support the development of new facilities and a new leisure centre, and ensure the positive management of the Green Belt to improve access to sports and open space, therefore increasing participation in sports and physical activity and promoting a healthier and more active population.

Use of Assets

11. There are opportunities for integrating services, 'place-based' commissioning, and the strategic use of public sector assets across the partnership, based on insight and evidence of need. This theme covers 'co-location' of services – housing several services under one roof, exploring the potential to release public land for development and making best use of strategic sites. The potential for joint working in this area is explored in more detail in a separate report to this meeting.

Smart Cities

12. This theme is focussed on innovation, technology, and digital. The Entrepreneurial Barnet Board currently leads this agenda jointly with partners, with the aim of harnessing new technology and innovation to drive service transformation and reduce dependency on statutory services.
13. Smart Cities encompasses a range of agendas, including:
- Internet of things – connecting internet and data collection to physical objects in the public realm, normally in the form of sensors, for example, parking sensors in town centres.
 - Demand management – enabling people with higher levels of need to remain independent e.g. smart meters that detect when heating isn't turned on in cold weather.
 - Community engagement and civic society – smart cities draws on technology to improve people's lives. There are opportunities for smart cities to engage with civic participation, volunteering, digital democracy and building of social capital. Examples include "civic passports" that could allow people to redeem time spent volunteering for goods and services based in community hubs.
 - Transparency and big data – as well as physical hardware like sensors, software and data is an equally important component in smart cities approaches. The most obvious current manifestation of this is through the Barnet's approach to open data and transparency.

Arts and Culture

14. This theme will consider how the partnership can help to ensure that Barnet continues to be a vibrant and thriving place to live and that it is well poised to seize future opportunities that arise to develop arts and culture, either locally or as part of a wider London offer.
15. The new Mayor of London's consultation 'City for All' states that he is developing "*the world's first cultural infrastructure plan, giving an overview of all the city's cultural requirements to inform spatial and transport planning up to 2030, not just in central London but across the city.*"
16. The intention is to develop a strategic framework to maximise the impact of different partners' activity on arts and culture in Barnet.

Conclusion

17. The Board is invited to review the five themes outlined in this paper and to agree them as the focus for future partnership working.