

Key Theme 3 – Place

I. Description of the Programme Outcomes

We will work to make Charnwood a safe, cohesive borough in which to live and work

- To reduce crime and anti-social behaviour on our streets and our estates
- To further community cohesion across the Borough
- To manage our streets, open spaces and estates enforcing high standards of cleanliness
- To support priority communities to improve well being and cohesion
- To promote healthy and vibrant communities

2. Outline description of the benefits that should be delivered as a result of the change (include any dis-benefits). How will they be achieved and how will they be measured?

- Crime and disorder performance is improved for key crime and ASB measures against national and family group trends.
- The public perceive that ASB is handled well and that more people feel that Charnwood is a safe place to live and work [measured through survey].
- That more people feel that Charnwood is a good place to live and communities get along well. [measured through survey]
- That the threat of extremism from within or in the Borough is gauged to be low. [measured through survey]
- That more people think that Charnwood has high standards of street cleaning and the Council is pro-active in enforcing regulations. [measured through survey]
- That people living in our priority neighbourhoods perceive real, sustainable improvements to where they live. [measured through survey]

To promote healthy and vibrant communities

Healthy and vibrant communities are a key element to ensuring continued sustainable communities and help reduce health inequalities. Key benefits from the delivery of this programme include:

- Improvement in air quality levels within targeted areas of the Borough
- Improved local environmental standards
- Contribute towards key LAA targets for Health Improvement
- Reduction in levels of obesity
- Improved Life expectancy and health inequalities.
- Reduction in smoking prevalence levels
- Contribution to Anti-Social behaviour reduction.
- Attraction of partnership funding streams – Lottery funding, Primary Care Trusts, Food Standards Agency,

These benefits will be achieved through a number of mechanisms:

- Implementation of the Charnwood Borough Council Air Quality Action plan, including improved monitoring and reporting on levels of air quality.
- Targeted inspection programme for permitted industrial processes.
- Targeted campaigns to highlight the impact of noise and general nuisance and how to reduce this, linked to ASB.
- Targeted Health Development campaigns, working with schools and community

- groups to raise the profile of healthy eating and healthy lifestyles.
- Smoking cessation work in partnership with the PCT, targeted at routine and manual workers and also linked to enforcement activities.

The above programme will be measured by monitoring of the following outputs:-

- Levels of Air Quality in the Borough, including areas of exceedances of National Limits.
- National Indicator 185 and 186 CO2 reductions.
- National indicator 194 Level of air quality (LA contributions)
- Completion of the risk based inspection programme for Pollution Prevention and Control Permitted processes.
- Reduction in the levels of noise and nuisance complaints, linked to ASB.
- National Indicator 55 and 56 Obesity levels in Children
- National Indicator 123 Smoking prevalence rates.

3. Initial Project and Activity List

- Crime and disorder reduction is managed primarily through the CSP (a sub group of Charnwood Together) and its three year Partnership Plan which has just been adopted. For full details of the projects and activities to be undertaken by this group, follow the link: [xxx]
- A new project will be established to pick up those aspects of the Community Safety Inspection that relate specifically to how the Council embeds crime and disorder reduction within its working practices (Section 17). Details of this project can be found at [xxx]
- To strengthen the work of the Charnwood Together Stronger Communities Sub-Group in terms of partnership activity to further Community Cohesion; plus an internal project to review and embed community cohesion within the Council's activities, in particular ensuring Government guidance and requirements for local authorities with regard to cohesion are addressed.
- A project to consider opportunities for improved co-ordination (hotspot targeting, problem solving techniques, information sharing, joint operations etc) of relevant regulatory and enforcement services, in conjunction with the Police, EA etc. to strengthen responsiveness, reassure the public and improve performance further.
- Continued efforts to improved cleanliness of streets, public areas, open spaces and other land, including better co-ordination across Council and partner services to make best use of resources.
- To develop the Charnwood Health and Well being Partnership (a sub-group of Charnwood Together) to be a focal point for borough level co-ordination and delivery of health and well-being related initiatives to tackle priority health related issues for our communities.
- To support the Area Improvement Sub group of Charnwood Together to implement effective neighbourhood improvement initiatives in conjunction with partner agencies in targeted localities to achieve real improvements for people living in those communities; plus a project within the Council to ensure effective co-ordination of Council responses to both short and long term problems within the target localities, including new ways of working, better co-ordination, and provision of resources to support the responses required.

To deliver the desired outcomes and contribute to vibrant and healthy communities, the following activities will need to be delivered:-

- Monitor and report on Local Air Quality Levels.

- Work with the Local Transport Team of Leicestershire County Council, to bring about improvements to traffic related pollution.
- Set up internal Air Quality Action Group to undertake improvements to the Council's own contribution to Air Quality levels, linked to EMAS, Climate Change, the Council's Fleet, buildings and development control activities.
- Undertake an annual awareness raising campaign for greener travel and driving techniques.
- Inspection of all risk rated PPC permitted processes in the borough and identify possible partnership possibilities.
- Talks, leaflets and newsletter contributions for raising awareness to targeted sectors of the community on noise nuisance and ASB. 'A Quieter Life 4 All'.
- Healthy eating and lifestyles with LCC healthy schools co-ordinators and PCT. Examples include the Food Standards Agency 'Mission Possible' project for food safety and Healthy eating.
- In partnership with the Charnwood Health & Well being Partnership, undertake targeted educational work for smoking cessation in the workplace. Supported Health at Work initiatives, including talks and smoking cessation clinics.

4. Risks to the Programme

- A focus on short term gains when in fact some of the underlying issues relating to communities remain unresolved. This will be mitigated by partnership action through delivery of the Charnwood SCS and LAA
- Lack of effective support/buy in from partner agencies. This will be mitigated by the work of Charnwood Together in delivering the SCS.
- Lack of support from within communities to enable initiatives to be sustained. This will be mitigated by effective community engagement through Neighbourhood Forums, Neighbourhood Action Teams and effective community associations.
- Lack of flexibility within the organisation. This will be mitigated by change programmes that support new ways of working.
- Air Quality levels increase, with an increase in asthma and other health associated problems.
- Failure to improve the targets for National Indicators for Air Quality and not implementing actions in the Air Quality Action Plan
- Noise Nuisance cases and ASB continue to rise and work against aim of providing stronger communities.
- Failure to improve on National Indicators for levels of obesity and smoking cessation.

5. Constraints

- Funding – CBC, partner and potential grant funded for specific initiatives
- People – the capacity of staff, partner agencies and the community
- Data – the ability to assess and analysed data to provide timely information about community needs and expectations
- Ability to employ Health Development lead officer to co-ordinate and deliver on key project activities.
- Service pressures from other regulatory functions.
- Sufficient budget to develop targeted educational work and continue to monitor air quality and undertake inspection work.

6. Assumptions

One of the main assumptions is that sufficient staff and resources are in place to deliver key activities.

The Health Development programme, could be developed in partnership with the PCT with possible additional funding streams being identified. However, a Health Development Officer will need to be in place to be able to deliver these projects.

7. Costs

Within the community safety area there are already several initiatives that have been supported by LABGI funding which will run out at the end of March 2009 and which will need replacing if all or some of those initiatives are to be continued.

The main additional resource pressure will be around the expectations on services to respond to the particular needs of target neighbourhoods while still delivering the standard service – mainly I would see this affecting cleansing and street management.

However, further pressures may also arise through the Area Forum process. There may also be pressure for investment in community facilities or improvement of the existing.

8. Timescales

- Start-up – 2007/8
- Manage and run – 2008 - 2012
- Realisation of benefits – 2013 Onwards