

**AGENDA ITEM:  
SUMMARY**



<b>Report for:</b>	<b>Housing and Community Overview &amp; Scrutiny</b>
<b>Date of meeting:</b>	<b>29<sup>th</sup> January 2014</b>
<b>PART:</b>	<b>1</b>
If Part II, reason:	

<b>Title of report:</b>	<b>Neighbourhood Action Vision 2014</b>
Contact:	Cllr Neil Harden, Portfolio Holder for Resident and Regulatory Services  Author/Responsible Officer, Joe Guiton, Neighbourhood Action Team Leader, Resident Services
Purpose of report:	Update on consultation and project and to receive feedback
Recommendations	That members note the report and feedback any comments to the Portfolio Holder
Corporate objectives:	Safe and Clean Environment Building Community Capacity Dacorum Delivers
Implications:	<u>Financial</u>  Within existing budgets  <u>Value for Money</u>
'Value For Money Implications'	
Risk Implications	As per Neighbourhood Delivery Service Plan
Equalities Implications	
Health And Safety Implications	

Consultees:	Group Manager, Resident Services
Background papers:	

## **Neighbourhood Action Vision 2014**

### **1 Introduction**

Over time the services we deliver have evolved and the needs of our residents have changed, residents are becoming more aware and the service demands have grown dramatically.

We are growing but only as far as resources allow. We are now at the point where we can no longer deliver our general day to day service effectively.

At present the service delivers in the following areas:

#### **Neighbourhood Action Groups**

To develop and promote the Neighbourhood Action areas and establish Neighbourhood Action plans in specific areas within the borough and support them to deliver priorities and services at a local level.

To encourage the involvement and engagement of residents in local issues, service prioritisation and delivery, this will be done by working with Members, local people, voluntary and statutory organisations, faith groups and businesses.

#### **Active Communities**

To focus primarily on the needs of Youth, Ethnic & Faith communities with an emphasis on the inclusion of client groups minority issues by; working with statutory and voluntary agencies in designated communities, to develop community cohesion, local networks, facilitating the setting up and supporting self-help initiatives, projects and groups.

#### **Neighbourhood Support**

To maintain a clean, safe and green environment that enhances and addresses the priorities of neighbourhoods within the Borough, provides reassurance to residents and builds capacity within the community.

#### **Verge hardening**

Capital project to provide well needed additional parking spaces within the borough neighbourhoods.

## **Festive light - Neighbourhood Centres**

Through the Neighbourhood Action meetings residents have identified the want for festive lights to help promote a sense of community. This will also encourage people to the neighbourhood shopping centres so the shops and community prosper. They would also like to have a festive light switch-on in a similar manner to that of Hemel, Berkhamsted and Tring.

## **Community Groups, Clubs and Events**

To support and encourage the setting up of new community groups and initiatives – Arsenal Soccer Development Centre, Kick it Out (kick racism out of football) and the Mela.

To provide and support community events such as free play days and community fetes.

## **Play Area Development**

Improving Dacorum's play areas so they meet the needs of the community in which they are situated to include, educational and inclusive play equipment to enable children to develop socially and have the opportunity to play together without restriction. Maintain a clean safe environment for our children and young people to visit and play.

## **Skyride local**

Support residents and visitors to give them the opportunity and experience of riding a bike.

Sky Ride local rides are guided bike rides by friendly British Cycling Ride Leaders along scenic planned routes, with different levels, there's something for everyone – whether you're building your confidence or already comfortable on a bike and looking for a challenge.

Rides are all free and are grouped in levels to suit everyone from beginners to experienced cyclists.

## **Street Champions**

Environmental initiatives to support volunteers to become socially responsible for their community.

Street champions have direct access to officers who will support them with all the information and equipment needed to make a difference. We support them by organising litter picks and by putting on a community event.

## **Brighter futures**

Education and training for NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training) and people returning to work. Help with CV writing, confidence building and returning to education.

## **Love your neighbourhood**

Targeted intervention within areas of high deprivation allowing whole council involvement.

We can engage with resident at a real local level through a consultation and information exchange day targeting specific issue with in a community.

By targeting parts of the community that are affected by deprivation ensures that as an organisation we deal with it in a holistic way.

## **Growth**

Where we have grown and developed our services new initiatives have been created and not just by the authority but by the community as well. It is vital that we continue to grow in line with the community's needs and expectations.

Community groups have started taking an active role in projects for their community and need the support from us to do that We need to help them develop and for us to build the community capacity to improve our neighbourhoods.

## **New Neighbourhood Action areas**

We are receiving more and more requests for Neighbourhood Action from residents in other wards, Boxmoor, Corner Hall, Bovingdon, Berkhamsted. Neighbourhood Action is no longer seen as a tool for fixing problems in difficult deprived areas, but as a forum where residents engage with their councillor and council staff and things happen as a result.

## **Re-branding**

Neighbourhood Action needs a new fresher look if it is to continue its drive and commitment to the community. Attendance has been falling over the year which is due to the growing success of our new project and initiatives requiring more resources. Youth figures have grown exponentially through 2012/13 and it is hoped that this will continue. Appendix 1.

This can be achieved by looking at how we deliver within communities and how the community can engage with its council.

The Love Your Neighbourhood event that was held in the WoodHall Farm ward was a very successful targeted engagement tool that involved many DBC services, as well as multiple agencies to address child poverty within that specific area. This model could mould how we move our service forward for the better. Appendix 2.