

## Cabinet Response

**Review Title:** Local Area Forums  
**T&F Group Chairman:** Councillor Brian Roberts  
**Date reported to Cabinet:** 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2012  
**Lead Cabinet Member:** Councillor Martin Phillips, Cabinet Member for Community Engagement  
**Lead Officer:** Rebecca Carley, Locality Services Manager

Recommendation	Agreed Yes/No	Cabinet Response including proposed action	Responsible Cabinet Member	Responsible Officer	Action by date
<b>1. Cabinet requires BCC service areas to produce an assessment of the LAF priorities, identifying relevant delegated functions or decisions that could be made by LAFs.</b>	In part	<p>A response to this will be deferred until the reconsideration of the Council's localism approach is completed. A detailed response will be provided by April 2013.</p> <p>In the meantime, Cabinet Members will urge services to engage constructively with LAFs.</p>	All	Rebecca Carley	Detailed response by April 2013
<b>2. Cabinet agree a new LAF Terms of Reference refocusing LAFs around their role of 'influencing, enabling and taking action to address local issues'.</b>	In part	<p>A response to this will be deferred until the reconsideration of the Council's localism approach is completed. This reconsideration will confirm the purpose and scope for the LAF function going forwards. A detailed response will be provided by April 2013.</p> <p>Until that time, any LAF which wishes to reconsider its current terms of reference in line with this recommendation and within the parameters of the 2008 approved Locality Strategy is welcome to do so.</p>	Martin Phillips & Peter Cartwright	Clive Parker & Rebecca Carley	Detailed response by April 2013
<b>3. Cabinet as part of the Localities Strategy refresh considers how BCC staffing resources can be deployed more effectively to deliver this strategy within existing resources and help to strengthen partnership working with the district</b>	In part	<p>Whilst Services will look at how they can further assist locality working it is important to remember that the County Council is facing very difficult financial challenges. It is highly unlikely that additional resources will be released to the Localities Service.</p> <p>Cabinet is also keen to strengthen the relationship with town and parish councils as well as District</p>	All	Rebecca Carley	Detailed response by April 2013

councils.		Councils.			
<p><b>4. District councils should be encouraged to have a senior representative/lead area officer at every LAF meeting, and to explore proactive solutions to making their attendance more worthwhile if they are sceptical, including attending agenda setting meeting, and increasing topic awareness among LAF attendees.</b></p>	Yes	<p>LAFs in their current form are clearly more effective with proactive District Council engagement.</p> <p>Aylesbury Vale and South Bucks have always provided senior officer support; and Chiltern District Council is now doing so. We shall be urging Wycombe District Council to reconsider its decision of June 2011 to withdraw regular officer attendance.</p> <p>The approach operated by AVDC works well and could be used a useful reference by the other District councils.</p>	Martin Phillips	Rebecca Carley	Autumn 2013
<p><b>5. Each LAF should maintain a public flexible forward plan of future meeting topics, with greater LAF member ownership of this and input into it.</b></p>	Yes	<p>LAF forward plans exist and it is already long established practice to invite LAF members to nominate items for each agenda. Publishing them in the public domain (i.e. website and possibly on agendas) makes sense.</p>	Peter Cartwright	Clive Parker	By the end of Nov 2012
<p><b>6. Cabinet ensures that the BCC member development programme, particularly the induction programme for new members, provides clear guidance and support to members in their community leadership role, including expectations and advice on their involvement in LAFs.</b></p>	Yes	<p>Agreed, planning for member induction following the election next year is underway and includes a focus on members' community leadership role, the role of the LAF and what is expected of members in this respect. The specific expectations of the role of our members in LAFs will be shaped by the reconsideration of the Council's localism approach and the place of LAFs within that.</p> <p>Plans are being approved and monitored by the Member Development Working Group.</p>	Peter Cartwright	Frances Mills	<p>Regular updates on induction content and delivery will be given to the MDWG which meets monthly.</p> <p>Induction will be delivered from May - July 2013</p>

<b>7. Cabinet rebrands and re-launches LAFs to reinforce any changes made to the role of LAFs detailed in the new Locality Strategy.</b>	Yes	Action on this will be deferred until the reconsideration of the Council's localism approach is completed. A detailed response will be provided by April 2013.	Martin Phillips & Peter Cartwright	Clive Parker & Rebecca Carley	Detailed response by April 2013
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