

Questions to be circulated to the eight Chairs of the eight Community Partnerships on behalf of Scrutiny Committee

Q1. In your opinion, have we the correct representation on each Partnership? Are there other agencies/partners we should consider?

My Ward and CP area are very rural and some of the villages are quite small. Some don't even have a Parish Council, just a Parish Meeting and many of the PC members feel the CP is 'not for us'. I think they are put off by the Town & District Councillors, whom some see as more powerful. We have had support from SALC to engage these Parishes and I have tried in my own Ward, asking other DCs to do so in theirs, but this has met with a mixed response. I feel we are in danger of the grant funding all going to the towns or the projects in which Town and District councillors are involved/ have encouraged to apply, which probably amounts to the same thing

Q2. How proactive are Councillors in identifying ideas to spend the funding on within their communities? Are all members of the Partnership bringing ideas to the meetings and/or to the Chair?

Very

Q3. How do we currently share best practice with other Community Partnerships – when, for example, two have similar ideas?

I'm not sure I have, directly, though our clerk, Sarah Carter clerks more than one CP and does offer hints on what others are doing. I also read minutes and details from the other CPs. Each is different though and you cannot have a one size fits all.

Q4. How well is your Community Partnership informing local organisations that funding is available?

Very well, I send all information to parishes in my Ward and ask other DCs to do the same. I don't check they have done it

Q5. With reference to the Council's Strategic Objectives and the Community Partnership Board, how well do you think this matches your own Partnership's objectives? Do you have different priorities?

No

Q6. With reference to the Funding Model, is the general funding model of £10,000 /£25,000 per Community Partnership, regardless of the population base, adequate and fit for purpose in your opinion, or do you think a review of the funding model might be necessary?

I think a review should happen. With a wide area to cover, it is difficult to offer all communities a sufficient amount of money to encourage them to come forward.

About

I am beginning to think the best way to engage parishes is for DCs and the Communities Officer to make a presentation ton each Parish Council in a last ditch attempt to get them involved, but perhaps this is not an appropriate use of time or resource – and of course would not apply to all PCs

Appendix B – Reply 1

On behalf of the Scrutiny Committee, thank you.