

Overview and Scrutiny Committee Select Committee No 1 – Townships

10 December 2007

Present at the Meeting:

Councillor Mrs J S Birch (Chairman)
Councillor Mrs B Bourne
Councillor Mrs S Loudon

.1 Apologies for absence: Councillors P A Tushingham, H L Cadman, M Klieve and R T Splaine.

.2 Urgent business: None

.3 Minutes of last meeting: The minutes of the meeting of this Select Committee held on 26 November 2007 were approved as a correct record.

.4 Discussion with Township Managers and Township Coordinators: The Select Committee prepared and shared a series of key questions with the witnesses prior to the meeting. During the meeting the discussion was framed around these questions. Key issues raised:

- The Township Programme has made a significant difference to certain parts of the community.
- Works best when people are ready and willing to be involved and share their knowledge and experience.
- Forums have created a place where conversations happen that wouldn't otherwise take place.
- Takes time to get it right; different organisations bring different agenda's.
- Some partners are not fully engaged in the process with particular difficulty gaining regular commitment from the Primary Care Trust.
- We need to be clearer on people's roles and what is expected of them / what they should offer; this applies to community members, elected members and officers.
- Townships should be the strategic hub for that area and should influence organisational and partnership wide plans and priorities including the Local Area Agreement.
- We need to understand and influence the links to the developing Police and Community Together (PACTS).
- Focus tends to be on cleaner, greener, safer agenda; can be difficult to widen generally to other areas such as economy and health; but we have had some successes.
- Personalities play a big part in the success or otherwise of the programme.

- Amount of resource is a barrier to success, but we need to consider the best use of these resources.
- Townships should be about involvement and participation.
- We need to make sure we keep the people with the 'good ideas' and ensure that community involvement in 'getting things done' is maintained and developed.

Resolved: The Select Committee thanked the Township Managers for attending.

.5 Forward plan for future meetings: Resolved: The Select Committee agreed that an informal meeting would be held in the PPI meeting room on the third floor of Wigan Town Hall at 2.30 p m on 9 January 2008. Due to time constraints, the Select Committee were unable to discuss and share its thoughts and understanding of the discussion. The informal meeting will be used for that purpose. Township Managers will provide a summary of successful initiatives. The next formal meeting will take place at 6pm on 6 February.

Chairman