

Thursday, 29 August 2024

**Report of the Portfolio Holder for Cooperative Council, Community Partnerships and ASB**

**Proposals for Tamworth Strategic Partnership**

**Exempt Information**

None

**Purpose**

To update Cabinet on proposals to consider a refreshed local strategic partnership and associated sub-groups

**Recommendations**

It is recommended that Cabinet:

1. Endorse proposals for the development of a refreshed local strategic partnership
2. Support the re-launch of the Partnership on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2024

**Executive Summary**

A local strategic partnership (LSP) is a single non-political body that brings together at a local level the different parts of the public sector as well as business and voluntary sectors to foster collaborative approaches to improve the quality of life for residents.

LSP's are non-statutory bodies and in many local authority areas LSP's have become inactive in recent years.

The Tamworth Local Strategic Partnership key objectives were identified as:

- Create and Share Knowledge and Insight across organisations
- Increase collaborative working between organisations
- Develop and facilitate the creation of early and earliest help in the community
- Tackle the causes of Wider Social determinants of health and wellbeing

There have been no formal meeting arrangements in Tamworth for a strategic partnership since 2019 prior to the Covid pandemic, having been refreshed at that time with updated Terms of Reference.

The importance of collaborative partnership approaches during the pandemic continued to highlight the benefits of tackling both strategic and operational operation and has now created an opportunity for all local organisations, statutory, business and voluntary to further develop strategic approaches across a range of critical issues within the borough to achieve better outcomes for the people of Tamworth moving forward.

Tamworth has a well-deserved reputation for partnership approaches, which remains vibrant, and organisations have continued to meet to coordinate partnership actions via various groups and forums managing and implementing several important projects.

There is, however, no operational structure to formalise those arrangements and prevent duplication, identify wider collaboration or ability to apply for and distribute wider grant funding opportunities.

Tamworth Borough Council corporate risk register highlights the risk of not :

- Promoting Community Resilience and Cohesive Communities.
- Delivering economic growth, and sustainability in the Borough

The register outlines the consequence of lack of partnership working without strategic leadership and working together. The re-establishment of a TSP will substantially mitigate this risk.

The Council have recently become member of the [Cooperative Council Innovation Network](#) a membership organisation that wants to reclaim the traditions of community action, community engagement, and civic empowerment that can transform communities. This approach will help deliver radical and innovative programmes designed, led, and delivered in partnership with communities and other sector partners, maximising the social dividend they bring. A local strategic partnership will help drive this approach.



Key projects of strategic importance which would benefit with a wider collaborative approach include (but are not exhaustive):-

- Delivery of the Staffordshire County Council updated Early Help Strategy
- Oversight of delivery of other SCC strategic objectives for Tamworth
- Wider strategic input into the Tamworth Community Safety Partnership plan
- UK Shared Prosperity Funding
- Midlands Partnership Foundation Trust (MPFT) mental health transformation
- ICB Health inequalities strategy and outcomes
- Future High Street Fund
- Affordable housing
- Improving educational outcomes
- Tackling the cost of living crisis
- Local Plan stakeholder engagement
- Grants and social crowd funding opportunities
- Net Zero emission ambitions

- Economic regeneration projects
- Strengthening the Voluntary sector
- Wellbeing Strategy oversight
- Implementation of the Protect Duty

It is now considered timely, given the wider social cost of living concerns, mental health and wellbeing and the economic context for the re-vitalisation of a more cohesive strategic response to provide the oversight and strategic steer for all partners working across the borough to share vision and common goals for working with and improving outcomes for our communities. The issues around community cohesion concerns have further been exacerbated by the terrible events of 4<sup>th</sup> August 2024.

## **Proposal**

It is proposed that a formal multi-agency strategic partnership is re-established formalised under a single partnership banner (Identity and branding to be determined) to include strategic members of the UKSP board, representatives of health and social care, Staffordshire Police, Staffordshire Fire and Rescue, Councillors, public health, faith and key voluntary sector and community representation.

Initial discussions with the existing partnership/boards and other statutory partners have indicated that there is a willingness and advantage in working together to form a more strategic vision for the communities of Tamworth.

The existing terms of reference for the existing partnership which were considered in 2019 have now been updated in draft format for discussion (attached as Appendix 1) and identify other key partners who may not previously have been included.

The partnership will be the overall coordinating body for strategic partnership approaches across the borough. It will not manage individual organisational plans.

Key to the delivery of partnership outcomes will be the identification of priority areas for focus and agreement of specific actions which will benefit from a partnership approach .

An initial meeting has been arranged at Tamworth Assembly Rooms on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2024 to discuss thematic sub-groups, plan and also to update on emerging Tamworth Borough Council corporate priorities.

Membership organisations invited include:

- Tamworth Borough Council Leader and responsible Portfolio Holder
- Tamworth Borough Council Chief Executive and relevant senior officers
- Staffordshire County Council representatives
- Staffordshire Police
- Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service
- Support Staffordshire
- Staffordshire Council for Voluntary Youth Services (SCVYS)
- Sutton, Lichfield and Tamworth Chamber of Commerce
- Integrated Care Board representation
- Primary Care Network
- Town centre business groups
- Key anchor Voluntary Sector Organisations
- South Staffordshire College
- Department of Work and Pensions
- Faith groups

It is further proposed that the partnership is supported in delivering its objectives by the development of the following thematic operational groups to be discussed at the initial meeting on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2024:

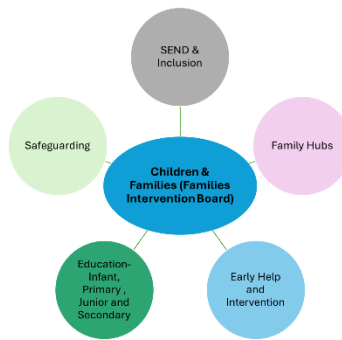


These groups will be operationally responsible for implementation of the wider strategic partnership plans and community safety plan and will provide information to assess progress to the partnership plans at the strategic level.

Except for the Families Intervention Board, other thematic groups will be led by nominated Tamworth Borough Council officers.

Thematic working groups are proposed to cover the following:





The Council Infrastructure Safety and Growth Committee will remain the delegated committee for scrutiny and monitoring of the partnership and the Portfolio Holder for Cooperative Council, Community Partnerships and ASB will present updates on the Partnership plans annually.

### **Strategic Partnership Plan**

It is proposed that a Strategic Partnership Plan is developed and that in the first instance, the priorities previously identified above are used to develop this.

It should be noted that it is not intended that the strategic plan should seek to capture all partnership activities but identifies areas of key interest where a wider strategic overview from represented organisations will be beneficial. It is also not intended that the plan recreates a complex performance management approach but is rather indicative and informative of the progress being made.

Over time it is intended that the plan will develop to be informed by a shared evidence base and common objectives and will form part of the collective business planning approach across organisations and inform individual priorities and vision.

### **Communication and Promotion**

Whilst the organisations working across Tamworth have much to be proud of in relation to the effectiveness of partnership working, there exists further opportunities to collaborate, communicate and promote the work undertaken.

By communicating and promoting this work in a coordinated way benefits for all partners can be achieved, as well as encouraging the involvement of residents in volunteering and increasing positive perceptions.

A communication and promotion plan will be considered by the partners, including the development of an improved web presence for a branded strategic partnership.

### **Options Considered**

The option not to re-convene a wider Tamworth Strategic Partnership is not an option.

### **Resource Implications**

Administration to be supported through the existing admin teams and Community Partnerships Manager/Safer Communities and Homes Manager.

Thematic leads from Tamworth Borough Council to be determined.

Communications and marketing support to be determined by the partnership and a relevant plan produced.

**Legal/Risk Implications Background**

<b>Risk/Opportunity</b>	<b>Mitigation</b>
Lack of support across organisations	Build on the strong partnership approach of the UKSPF Board which has representation from key statutory and non-statutory organisations Defined Terms of Reference
Reputational – a strategic partnership has not met for several years	Strong communication required as to the benefits of a strategic partnership Identified an emerging need to tackle issues faces Tamworth together ensuring wider involvement of partner
Resource and funding issues	Support is in kind with no expectation of pooled funding or expense unless identified
Opportunity to understand projects and funding from other organisations invested in the Tamworth community	Reduces duplication and assists with the sharing of data to identify need and projects
Failure of partnerships	Risk register established to monitor projects Coordination through the Partnership Database
Lack of administrative support	Administration to be supported through the existing admin teams and Community Partnerships Manager/Safer Communities and Homes Manager

**Equalities Implications**

The wider strategic plan for Tamworth and the cooperative Councils approach will provide a framework to ensure that the most vulnerable in our communities are supported and aims to ensure that there are no equality implications. A full CIA is attached as Appendix 5.

**Environment and Sustainability Implications (including climate change)**

A sustainability and environmental partnership thematic working group is to be included in the discussions to understand the work of all partners for example, in moving to net zero emissions, the climate emergency declaration, nature declaration and climate adaptation.

**Background Information**

**Existing Partnerships**

The UK Shared Prosperity Board, established and coordinated until March 2025 (Terms of Reference attached) is a multi-agency board with governance to oversee the £2.3M UK Shared prosperity funding, awarded by the Government to deliver the following high level objectives:

- Building pride in place
- Supporting high quality skills training
- Supporting pay, employment and productivity growth
- Increasing life chances ,

The Board is keen to continue the strong partnership work in place beyond March 2025 and could be considered to work to form the Prosperity and Place Partnership with updated Terms of Reference prepared to align more closely with the TSP and its' priorities.

## **Tamworth Health & Wellbeing Partnership**

Established in 2019, the Partnership was initially formed to be the link to the voluntary sector and key driver to the Covid response.

The Partnership has now been re-invigorated to form the strategic working group for the understanding of the Joint Strategic Need Analysis (JSNA), Strategic Outcomes Planning Model for the borough and oversight of the ICB Health Inequalities strategy for Tamworth, including the Covid Outbreak Management Fund. New Terms of Reference are now in place and are attached as Appendix 3.

## **Tamworth Community Safety Partnership**

The Tamworth Community Safety Partnership group (a refresh of the Partnership Coordination Group) is proposed to be the strategic link to the CSP, (proposed ToR attached as Appendix 2). The CSP thematic leads feed into this group to inform the Community Safety plan and the Community Safety forum (an informal networking event held quarterly).

Priorities for 2023-2026

- Anti-social behaviour
- Community cohesion and tackling extremism
- Car burglary and vehicle theft
- County Lines
- Domestic abuse
- Public place violence
- Vulnerable people including contextual safeguarding, substance misuse and mental health

In addition, the group will act as the Responsible Authorities Group as defined by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (as amended). This will include the monitoring of progress in relation to Tamworth Community Safety Partnership Plan. An updated terms of reference is included as Appendix 4.

## **Tamworth Family Improvement Board**

The Board, managed by the Staffordshire County Council Family Hub meets to bring together partners from the public, private, VCSE and families themselves to deliver the shared vision to improve outcomes for children and families in Tamworth.

The group is responsible for;

- Improving local performance so that outcomes for children continue to improve,
- Implementing shared action plans,
- Monitoring and mitigating risks and issues and where these cannot be resolved escalating these,
- Maintaining an up to date local offer via Staffordshire Connects,
- Undertaking an Annual Conversation to evaluate the effectiveness of the partnership against the agreed plan. This conversation will provide an opportunity to set local SMART priorities for the following year. These will be agreed with countywide boards to ensure effective whole system responses.
- Providing local feedback to children, young people and families about the work they are doing and how they are working together to meet their needs.

The Terms of Reference are attached as Appendix 4.

**Report Author**

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**Appendices**

Appendix 1 Draft ToR for the Tamworth Strategic Partnership

Appendix 2 Health and Wellbeing Partnership ToR

Appendix 3 Community Safety Partnership ToR

Appendix 4 Family Improvement Board ToR

Appendix 5 Community Impact Assessment