

BRIDPORT LOCAL AREA PARTNERSHIP

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To Members of The Shadow Cabinet,

Funding for Local Area Partnership (LAP's) Document being considered on Monday 17th September 2018.

It is a cause for concern that there is no funding request for LAP's in the document for decision by The Shadow Cabinet on Monday 17th September.

The decision to omit any request for funding LAP's appears to be based on the fact that only one participating Council, West Dorset, has LAP's. I can find no reference to a call for evidence either written or verbal. It is therefore arbitrary.

Members of the Bridport Local Area Partnership had hoped the new Unitary Authority would take models of good practice from participating councils and extend them across member councils. This decision regarding funding reduces the process to the lowest common denominator.

We acknowledge that funding is the driver but money spent on Partnerships run mainly by volunteers is an investment. Involvement promotes interest, positivity and a desire to 'deliver' what is asked increasingly of volunteers, Community Capacity Building is the key when finance is limited.

The lack of discussion and consideration to the minimum funding needs of LAP's can be taken as an indicator that there is no serious intent on the part of the new Unitary Authority to give credibility to work that has been undertaken and the results achieved by the LAP's.

A constructive way forward would be to uphold the status quo financially for LAP's for 2019 to 2020, involving them and similar community groups from other Council's, in determining the model for community planning that would best meet the needs of the new Unitary Authority.

BLAP has undertaken projects both within the Community Rough Sleepers/Homeless and with the County Council Building Better Lives and the CCG. That will necessarily extend beyond March 2018. The Parish Liaison Working Group has proved the value of collaborative working, initiating and being involved in the delivery of the Lengthsman Scheme and Bridport Community Bus Service.

The members of BLAP give their time for free and do not ask for funding for travel or attendance at meetings held by other organisations. Some funding from those with a duty of care would show respect to the volunteers and acknowledge their input. Invaluable to future goodwill.

Detailed evidence of volunteer hours and experience can be translated into evidence of money saved. This can be submitted if given suitable notice.

A small investment is cost effective and produces benefits.

Yours faithfully



Maureen Jackson
Chair of BLAP

Cc: District and County Councillors