

# **Management Committee**

## **6 June 2017**

### **Melcombe Regis Board Strategic Plan**

#### **For Decision**

#### **Briefholder**

Housing

#### **Senior Leadership Team Contact:**

S Hill, Strategic Director

#### **Report Author:**

G Duggan, Head of Community Protection

#### **Statutory Authority**

The Council has responsibility for a range of statutory and discretionary activities undertaken in the Melcombe Regis ward.

#### **Purpose of Report**

- 1 To inform your committee about the work of the Melcombe Regis Board and to endorse the strategic plan.

#### **Recommendations**

- 2 (1). To note progress of the Melcombe Regis Board and endorse the strategic plan.  
  
(ii). To agree that the Briefholders for Housing and Assets & Infrastructure in conjunction with the Chief Executive, are authorised to approve funding allocations from the Melcombe Regis reserve.

#### **Reason for Decision**

- 3 To enable the council to work with partners to improve the lives of people in Melcombe Regis.

#### **Background and Reason Decision Needed**

- 4 At your meeting on 1 March 2016, your committee approved the recommendation to take the lead in establishing a Melcombe Regis Strategic Board. This was in recognition of underlying structural issues affecting communities and the environment in Melcombe Regis. These issues affect people's health and lives more detrimentally than anywhere else in the Borough.

- 5 The Board first met on 25 April 2016, chaired by the Chief Executive and meets bi-monthly at the Council's Commercial Road offices. It consists of senior representatives from the following agencies;

Aster Housing  
Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group  
Dorset County Council  
Dorset Councils Partnership  
Dorset Police  
Dorset Police & Crime Commissioner  
Dorset & Wiltshire Fire & Rescue  
Public Health Dorset  
Team Around Melcombe Regis  
Weymouth College

Councillor Gill Taylor as the Housing Briefholder is Management Committee's representative on the Board.

- 6 Through analysis by the preceding task team, the structural issues have been identified, mapped and their inter-relationships are now better understood. The Board has taken these and centred its work upon priority themes - *Housing; Community; Environment; Health; Employment and Crime*. The challenge for the Board is for its members to work together to exploit the inter-relationships between these themes and start to achieve lasting change. In this respect, the Board's vision is that ***Melcombe Regis is a safe, healthy and great place to live and work.***
- 7 The Board has produced its strategic plan and this is given in Appendix 1. The plan maps out longer term goals and actions which will be reviewed and re-freshed annually. The main purpose of the Board is to facilitate change and to achieve that it needs to work in partnership with all those agencies and groups involved in delivering services and supporting people in the area. The Team Around Melcombe Regis, a group of local service providers and residents, is represented on the Board and a community engagement event took place on 17 May 2017. Financial support has been given by the Board to strengthen community development and support The Lantern project for vulnerable local people. A precis of actions taken by the Board and its members, in addition to the day to day delivery of services, is given in Appendix 2.
- 8 Improving the quality of housing is a strong focus for the Board. Housing conditions are a direct determinant of health and poor, cheap housing stock creates pockets of deprivation and social issues. Whilst there is good housing in Melcombe Regis, there is a disproportionate amount of private rented and poor stock. A report will be made to your committee in September 2017 about the options that are available to the council and other stakeholders with recommendations from the Board,
- 9 Last year, your committee agreed to allocate up to £100,000 to assist the work of the Board. To date, only a small amount of this funding has been used to help develop the local housing strategy. But now that the strategic plan is developed, further requests for allocations are expected. It is suggested that the Briefholders for Housing and Assets & Infrastructure, in

conjunction with the Chief Executive, are authorised to decide on allocations within the value of the reserve. This will allow the council to respond in a timely way to assist local projects and improvements. A summary of the allocations will be made to your committee with an evaluation.

## **Implications**

### **Corporate Plan**

- 10 Given the nature of the Board's work there are strong links with the corporate plan priorities of Building a Stronger Local Economy; Empowering Thriving & Inclusive Communities; Improving Quality of Life and Developing Successful Partnerships.

### **Financial**

- 11 As outlined in the report.

### **Economic Development**

- 12 As outlined in the report

### **Risk Management (including Health & Safety)**

- 13 There is reputational risk to the council and its other partners if inequality in health outcomes and opportunities for communities are not challenged effectively.

### **Human Resources**

- 14 Nil

## **Consultation and Engagement**

- 15 The plan has been produced by Board members and consultation has taken place within and across agencies. Engagement opportunities such as mentioned in the report will allow feedback and shaping of the plan over its term.

## **Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Melcombe Regis Strategic Plan  
Appendix 2 – Precis of local action

## **Background Papers**

Please contact the report author.

## Footnote

Issues relating to financial, environmental, economic and equalities implications have been considered and any information relevant to the decision is included within the report.

**Report Author:** Graham Duggan, Head of Community Protection

**Telephone:** 01305 252285

**Email:** [gduggan@dorset.gov.uk](mailto:gduggan@dorset.gov.uk)

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