

## Parishes Liaison Meeting – 18th June 2014

### Connecting Communities

#### **1. Aim of this briefing**

This briefing note updates on the progress of Connecting Communities, Parishes Liaison having received updates on 19<sup>th</sup> June and 16<sup>th</sup> October 2013 and 19<sup>th</sup> February 2014.

#### **2. Update**

In the Somer Valley Cluster Area there is agreement to establish a Somer Valley Forum and a working group will finalise detailed arrangements. It is expected that the first Forum meeting will take place in July.

The Keynsham and Chew Valley Clusters areas will be finalising their Forum arrangements at a meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> July.

Each forum is establishing a forward plan of key items for discussion.

As a result of this Parish Cluster Group meetings for the Keynsham and Chew Valley area and Somer Valley area (Parish Cluster Groups 1, 4 and 5) will no longer take place. Parish Cluster meetings for Groups 2 and 3 will continue at present. The types of issues raised at Parish Cluster meetings may still be brought to the relevant Forum meetings, with a view to establishing common themes across communities, agreeing priorities and looking at ways in which organisations can work together to address them.

#### **3. Next Steps**

There has been considerable experience gained from the Clusters where work has taken place so far and there is still more learning to come as the first “Forum” meetings are held. It is currently proposed that this be collated and reported to Cabinet before any further Clusters are progressed.

The Council also agreed that Bath & North East Somerset Council AGM on 8th May established a cross-party working group to consider options to strengthen community representation and civic governance within Bath.

Parishes have been informed of the options under consideration by the working group and these are set out on the Bath City Conference website (see link below)

<http://www.bathcityconference.net/>

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