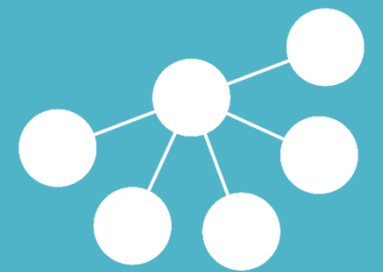




The role of parish and town councils in local service delivery and place-shaping

Northamptonshire larger councils
partnership

18th July 2024



SHARED INTELLIGENCE



Building trust

The underlying principles, shared commitments and ongoing dialogue



Intent

What do you want to achieve?



Scoping and listening

Understanding the variation in the local council sector



Information

Providing clear information



Material support

Support for sustainable arrangements

Taken from: *Local service delivery and place-shaping: A framework to support parish and town councils*, LGA, August 2021

Key messages

- **Dialogue.** Fruitful action results from active dialogue and should evolve through experience.
- **Flexibility.** Success relies on finding agreement between different sets of members – town or parish council members; ward councillors and council leadership, as well as between officers. This requires flexible and creative thinking.
- **Patience.** “Evolution not revolution” as stated in a previous LGA – NALC publication holds true.

Links

Local service delivery and place-shaping: A framework to support parish and town councils, LGA, August 2021.

www.local.gov.uk/publications/local-service-delivery-and-place-shaping-framework-support-parish-and-town-councils

Recommendations on the Role of Parish Councils in the event of Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) in Somerset, June 2020

<https://www.northantscalc.com/blog/news-1/lgr-report-mel-uscher-90>

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Discussion (1 / 2)

Starting points

Urgency to getting ahead of the game on local devolution – a rushed, unplanned approach in response to financial crisis will not go well (see early days of Milton Keynes approach)

Start dialogue before next local election cycle

Some examples exist in Northants of what's worked broadly well – see Daventry and transfers in last year of the district council. Other examples in Northampton (civic events) and Kettering (though with costs)

Building the case

Need to make it clear what the benefits are for the unitary authority

Evidence of what towns and parishes with close community involvement can do better – see libraries; see turn around in revenue for former loss-making civic events

Can take time for principal authorities to gather information about contracts and building costs. Start now to reduce risk in any transfers

Discussion (2 / 2)

What do we want?

Complete the transfers that have been in progress for long periods?

Identify some “low hanging fruit” and build out from there?

Identify some other priority areas (service area or place led??) and frame dialogue around these

Concrete things – help in finding an office

Enablers

Basic communication – e.g. advising towns and parishes about local consultations

Help officers and members in unitary authorities know how town and parish councils work

Do unitary authorities have asset transfer policies and processes?

Unitary authority point of contact – “corporate front door”

Longer term leases – min 12 years to be able to apply for grants

Tapered funding (NB needs planning ahead)