

Hayley Barsby
APSE central seminar ,
24th May 2007

Impact of the White Paper, 'Strong and
prosperous communities' on the
corporate manager

Mansfield District Council
Creating a District where People can Succeed

Executive Mayor : Tony Egginton
Managing Director : Ruth Marlow

Mansfield District Council

- Directly elected Independent Mayor following a referendum in 2002 – recently re elected
- Political balance - 28 Independent Forum
 - 12 Labour
 - 4 Liberal Democrat
 - 1 Conservative
 - 1 Independent
- Assessed as 'Weak' in 2003 , currently waiting for re assessment
- Population of 99,000, low BME population (1.67%) with an increasing number European migrants, 24.2% of our population suffer from a limiting long term illness .

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Reducing (or shifting) the burden

- What are the plans :
 - Proposal is to reduce the number of national indicators to a single set of 200 to cover all relevant partners
 - Single performance framework for local government and our partners
 - Audit Commission to operate as the single local services inspectorate - risk based approach

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Reducing (or shifting) the burden

- What is currently happening:
 - 'Lifting the burdens task force' set up and due to conclude November 2008
 - Consultation document – CPA to CAA ,(respond to consultation by 14th June 2007) new framework from April 2009
 - Plan rationalisation work already undertaken

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Reducing (or shifting) the burden

- What is happening at Mansfield :
 - Raft of audit work taking place that feeds from one to the other
 - Data Quality (3 stages)
 - Use of resources (including VFM)
 - Direction of Travel assessment (Progress assessment)
 - Efficiency Statements
 - Final accounts
 - Re categorisation

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Ensuring services are accountable

- What are the plans:
 - Opportunities for improved local governance in 2 tier areas (unitary , pathfinder , enhanced two tier)
 - New leadership models – Directly elected mayor or executive , indirectly elected leader all with a 4 year term .
 - Clear and strengthened roles for overview and scrutiny (April 2008) with the ability to review actions of key local public service providers
 - Freedom to opt for whole council elections and single member wards (from May 2008)
 - Development of non executive members into democratic champions for their areas
 - Development of neighbourhood and community accountability - Community call for actions and management and ownership of assets (April 2008)

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Ensuring services are accountable

- What is currently happening:
 - April 2007 consultation on community call for action
 - May 2007 Council's to adopt new code of conduct for members
 - April 2008 new overview and scrutiny powers introduced
 - April 2008 new duty to involve local people

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Ensuring services are accountable

- What is happening at Mansfield:
 - Enhanced training for members on ward issues and their role
 - Introduction of 'ward allowances' to enable members to tackle local issues at source
 - Development of Citizens Panel and Area Assemblies
 - Mayor's manifesto - commitment to adopt single councillor wards

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Achieving the role of place shaper

- What are the plans:
 - Objective is for local authorities to be leaders of their local areas
 - Duty for named partners to co-operate in agreeing Local Area Agreement
 - All area based funding to go through LAA's
 - Requirement for local authorities to produce a Sustainable Community Strategy with an enhanced role for local strategic partnerships
 - Local government will be encouraged to move towards a "commissioning" role.

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Achieving the role of place shaper

- What is currently happening:
 - March 2007 sign off round 3 LAA's and agreement to refresh round 1 and 2
 - April 2007 testing of options for new LAA and partnership arrangements
 - Summer/autumn 2007 consultation on draft place-shaper guidance with final guidance in place by end of 2007

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Achieving the role of place shaper

- What is happening at Mansfield:
 - Recently adopted (revised) Community Strategy based on local area agreement priorities and targets
 - Established Local strategic partnership with a high level of member involvement
 - Neighbourhood renewal funding linked to LSP
 - More neighbourhood based working across the District – learning from Neighbourhood renewal areas

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In summary

- Self regulation and accountability has been developed
- Closer focus on citizens including the recognition that it isn't about everyone having the same level of access but a better level of access for some
- New role for non executive members following modernisation of local government
- More structured scored annual inspections

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