

8. Our approach and governance structure

The name of the partnership shall be 'Allenton Big Local Partnership Group' (ABL Group)

The Partnership is currently an unincorporated body and comprises three parts:

- The Allenton Big Local Forum
- The Allenton Big Local Partnership Group
- Any Big Local sub-groups agreed by the Partnership Group. Currently sub-groups are for each of the three priorities 1) Strengthening the Community, 2) Life Skills, 3) Creating opportunities for training and employment

Allenton Big Local Forum

- The Forum will meet at least annually as an open public meeting, organised by the ABL Group and conducted by the Chair of the ABL Group.
- There will be a minimum of 11 residents for the Forum to be quorate.
- Membership of the Forum is open to all residents living within the Allenton Big Local area and all residents aged 16 or over are able to vote at all public meetings
- The AGM will receive a report from the ABL Group on progress made toward the vision and towards the delivery of the Partnership Plan. This will include a financial statement of money received and spent.
- The Forum will review and determine the resident membership of the ABL Group at the AGM.
- Forum meetings will be encouraged to make recommendations to the ABL Group of future priorities to include in the plan and any other issues relating to ABL (notified in advance and in writing).
- The Forum is the group to which the Partnership Board reports on its progress toward the agreed vision for Allenton.

Allenton Big Local area falls within two council boundaries, Boulton Ward and Alvaston Ward. The Partnership Group will ensure regular updates are communicated via these forums to try and ensure as wide a group as possible are kept informed of progress towards agreed priorities.

The Partnership Group

The Partnership Group is the overarching partnership body that:

- Agrees the framework and structure for the Partnership
- Provides strategic direction by agreeing the vision and ambition
- Agrees the content of the Partnership plan
- Influences local policy through strong and clear advocacy and through championing Allenton Big Local
- Acts to remove barriers to collaboration
- Tasks any sub-groups or working-groups with securing specific outcomes
- Monitors progress towards outcomes of the Big Local vision and plan
- Ensures appropriate structures for meaningful engagement with local communities
- Makes arrangements for the allocation of funds or grants received by the Partnership for the express purpose of partnership activity, in order to advance the delivery of the Allenton Big Local vision and plan
- Approves arrangements for the management and administration of the Partnership
- Reviews the Partnership structure and its effectiveness

Membership of the Group

- Membership of the Board will be restricted to residents of the Allenton Big Local area, those who work in the area and their nominated advisors.

- All members of the ABL Group will have full voting rights apart from those who are Advisory members.
- There will be a minimum of 8 Partnership members and 51% need to be residents (minimum 5 residents and 3 non-residents).
- There will be a maximum of 20 Board members and of these a maximum of 15 will be residents.
- It must always be ensured that residents are in the majority of voting members.

Resident members of the Partnership Group

- The maximum term of office for resident members shall be 3 years. A rota shall be drawn up so that each year a third of resident members will stand down. Any member standing down or completing their term of office may put themselves forward for re-election. Other residents may put themselves forward to be elected onto the Partnership.
- Resident membership will be reviewed at each AGM or at an Extraordinary General Meeting called for that purpose.
 - Nominations from residents will open 28 days prior to an AGM and must be submitted in writing 14 days in advance of the AGM.
 - A short written outline of reasons for standing will be submitted by each candidate seeking election and this will be displayed at the AGM and on the website.
 - Nominees will also be asked to sign a self-declaration stating their suitability and eligibility for the role (information regarding the role and eligibility criteria will be available on the website and on request).
 - Voting will take place by a show of hands, unless for reasons determined by the Chair, a ballot paper is drawn up.
 - Election of resident members requires a two thirds majority of residents present who are eligible to vote.
- If during the year new residents wish to join the Partnership Group (and there are places available), the following process will apply:
 - Receipt of expression of interest to join.
 - Individual invited to attend meeting as a guest.
 - Two existing members of the partnership group will meet with the individual to discuss the role.
 - At the next Partnership meeting, these two members will make recommendation to the rest of the partnership group and a vote will be taken.
 - This individual will then be required to stand for election at the next AGM.

Non-resident members of the Partnership Group

- The maximum term of office for non-resident members of the partnership group will be one year. After the AGM, the residents on the partnership group will nominate and appoint the Non-resident members of the ABL Group.
- These members will bring in additional expertise to support the vision and strategic direction of Allenton Big Local.

Responsibilities of Partnership Members

Voting Members will be responsible for:

- Providing information and advice about day-to-day quality of life in the area
- Actively encouraging people in the area to play their part in supporting Allenton Big Local and its activities
- Ensuring local concerns are addressed and that planned activity has local support
- Ensuring effective communication between the Partnership and members of the community
- Contribute to collective decision making based on clear evidence
- Take an active part in ABL Partnership Group meetings, sub-groups, the AGM and key ABL community events during the year.
- Acting in accordance with the general principals of conduct included in this constitution.

For those members who represent other organisations or represent people who live and work in the area, the following responsibilities also apply:

- Providing relevant advice, knowledge and expertise (where appropriate) to the Partnership
- Providing additional impact and contribution to the Partnership from their parent organisation or other bodies
- Acting as advocate for the Partnership within their organisation and seeking to change practice and policy to the benefit of the Partnership
- In addition, the Local Trusted Organisation will act as the accountable body and ensure timely and accurate reporting to Local Trust on financial and delivery on outcomes.

Chairing

The ABL Partnership Group will appoint a Chair and Vice Chair on an annual basis at its first meeting after the AGM. Nominations may be made by any partnership member, with the consent of the nominee, prior or at the meeting where the appointments will be made. . Where more than one nomination is received, eligible members will vote by written ballot and the coordinator will count the votes and announce the result.

The Chair shall undertake to:

- Chair meetings in sympathy with the values and code of conduct stated within this document
- Chair meetings in order to progress the formation, delivery and review of Partnership plans and agreed business
- Ensure that all members are encouraged and enabled to make contributions
- Have a casting vote in meetings in the event of a vote being tied

Quorum

The Partnership Group will be quorate when a majority of the members are present and the majority of these are residents. Meetings can take place even if not quorate but votes cannot take place.

Decision Making

Decisions will normally be made by consensus. Where the Chair deems consensus to be unachievable within a reasonable timeframe, a vote will be made by eligible members present and entitled to vote and will be binding provided that:

1. The meeting is quorate.
2. The decision is agreed by a majority of voting members present
3. Any decision relating to commitments to or by partner organisations is only taken with their consent.
4. The proposed actions fall within the statutory and regulatory framework governing the operations of the partner organisations.

If a decision is required between meetings then an email will be sent by the Chair to see if a decision can be reached. If this is not possible or appropriate then an ad-hoc meeting will be called.

Frequency of meetings

The ABL Group will meet no less than six times a year, with additional meetings convened with the agreement of the Chair. Agendas and minutes of these meetings will be posted on the website. Sub-groups will aim to be responsive and will meet as and when required.

Purpose and Aims

The purpose of the Partnership is to provide a single coordinating framework that:

- Agrees the long term strategic direction for Big Local in Allenton
- Articulates and promotes the needs and aspirations of the local community through a shared vision
- Prepares, implements and monitors the Allenton Big Local Plan

The aim of the Partnership is to achieve the four outcomes set for the Big Local programme:

- Communities will be better able to identify local needs and take action in response to them
- People will have increased skills and confidence so they can continue to identify and respond to local needs in the future
- The community will work together to make a difference to the needs and issues it prioritises
- People will feel that their area is an even better place to live

In fulfilling this aim the Partnership will:

- Bring together with local residents the different parts of the public sector with the private, voluntary and community sectors in a spirit of collaboration and mutual support.
- Promote the engagement of communities and citizens in all its work in a thoughtful, continuous and inclusive way

Values

All parts of the Partnership structure will be guided by the following values:

- Openness, transparency and plain language
- Equality of opportunity and social inclusion
- Parity of esteem
- Respect for similarity and difference in ways of working and the rightful place of legitimate conflict in partnership
- Quality and excellence in everything we do
- Cooperation and collaboration as the basis for community wellbeing
- Supporting residents and people locally in improving their own communities

Conduct

All meetings shall be conducted with regard to accepted good practice and particularly the principles of openness, fairness and parity of esteem. Members will be expected to sign their agreement to the General Principles of Conduct (attached as Appendix). The ruling of the Chair shall be final. Partnership members will be expected to attend meetings and if they are unable to, will forward their apologies. Lack of attendance at meetings may mean that the member can be voted off the partnership group - this can only be done by advising the individual that this is going to happen and by the partnership group being quorate.

Declarations of Interest

- A member must declare an interest if he or she has a direct or indirect personal or financial interest in the matter under discussion
- An interest must be declared at the beginning of the relevant meeting or as soon as the member is aware they have an interest. Interest must be declared clearly so that all members are aware of the interest and how it arises
- Members should take no part in an item where they or any close associate might otherwise gain an unfair advantage. In such cases it will be for the member to withdraw from the room

Circulation of Information

- A programme of dates for meetings shall be drawn up annually, so far as possible
- Items for agendas for Partnership meetings can be submitted to the coordinator 10 days in advance of meetings and other items shall be determined by the Chair and Coordinator who will organise the meetings.
- Agendas will normally be sent to members in advance of each meeting although failure to meet this requirement will not invalidate the meeting. Agendas and papers will be sent by e-mail.
- Copies of agendas and reports will be published on the Allenton Big Local website.
Except for:
 - a) Any item declared non-public by the agenda sub group. Notwithstanding a) above the Partnership will comply with all relevant public information legislation
- Minutes will be circulated after the meetings and with the next agenda.
- Notice of meetings will be published on the ABL website and a hard-copy notice provided at the local library in the ABL area and the Community Hub (when established). Notice will also be circulated electronically to neighbourhood and community groups, and through any resident who requests them.

General Principles of Conduct

- 1. Selflessness**
Members should serve only the public interest and should never improperly confer an advantage or disadvantage on any person.
- 2. Honesty and Integrity**
Members should not place themselves in situations where their honesty and integrity may be questioned, should not behave improperly and should on all occasions avoid the appearance of such behavior.
- 3. Objectivity**
Members should make decisions on merit, including when making appointments, awarding contracts, or recommending individuals for rewards or benefits.
- 4. Accountability**
Members should be accountable to the public for their actions and the manner in which they carry out their responsibilities, and should co-operate fully and honestly with any scrutiny appropriate to their membership
- 5. Openness**
Members should be as open as possible about their actions (and where applicable those of their parent organization/authority,) and should be prepared to give reasons for those actions.
- 6. Personal Judgment.**
Members may take account of the views of others, including their political groups, but should reach their own conclusions on the issues before them and act in accordance with those conclusions.
- 7. Respect for Others**
Members should promote equality by not discriminating unlawfully against any person, and by treating people with respect, regardless of their race, age, religion, gender, sexual orientation or disability.
- 8. Duty to Uphold the Law**
Members should uphold the law and, on all occasions, act in accordance with the trust that the public is entitled to place in them.
- 9. Stewardship**
Where applicable, members should do whatever they are able to do to ensure that their parent organizations/ authorities use their resources prudently and in accordance with the law.
- 10. Leadership**

Members should promote and support these principles by leadership, and by example, and should act in a way that secures or preserves public confidence.