

PRESS RELEASE

Neighbourhood Agreements Go Live

The first pioneering Neighbourhood Agreement will go live at an official launch on 29th February at The Honeywell Centre.

The Department of Community & Local Government has hailed the Neighbourhood Agreements as an example of excellence and a model of good practice.

The launch will be the chance for residents to sign up to the agreements and learn how they can get involved in a more hands on way to keep the area as clean and green as possible.

Local resident, David Patterson, Chair of The Neighbourhood Team who has been driving the initiative forward in the area said.

“The agreements have been a fantastic way of bringing the community together to produce benefits for everyone. I am really proud to have been part of this first initiative from the start and look forward to seeing the benefits long term.”

This is the first of five pilot agreements which will be rolled out across Hathershaw & Fitton Hill over the next 12 months. The agreements aim to tackle key issues such as cleanliness and the environment, crime and community safety, housing and health, which affect all residents in the Borough.

The agreement has been 12 months in the making and is a written contract between service providers and residents who will work together to improve the cleanliness of the area. The agreement clearly outlines the expected roles and responsibilities of both parties so that the area can be improved long term.

The agreements hit the Council’s localism agenda and the issue of community cohesion as well as trying to instil a sense of community pride so that everyone works towards a common goal for the area.

The launch of the agreements is an important step forward for the Council in delivering its localism policies. If successful the agreements will be used as model of excellence and rolled out across the rest of the Borough.

Andrew Kilburn Oldham Council’s Chief Executive said

“These agreements are important in that they will change the way council services are delivered across Oldham because residents will be more involved. They aim is to encourage residents to take on responsibility for their individual areas and develop a sense of pride in where they live”

ENDS (Issued)

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NOTES TO EDITORS

There will be a further 5 agreements during 2008/09. These will be Housing in the summer, followed by Crime and Community Safety in September, Community Issues around December and the last on health early in 2009

The Neighbourhood Agreements have been 12 months in the making. The process has been as follows:-PRESS RELEASE