Farley Big Local Community Partnership – Terms of Reference

The Community Partnership is the overarching partnership body which

- **1.** Provides planned direction to tackle the locally identified priorities.
- **2.** Influences local policy through strong and clear advocacy and through speaking up for the Farley Hill ward.
- **3.** Acts to remove barriers to collaboration.
- **4.** Sets up tasks sub-groups or working-groups with securing specific outcomes.
- 5. Monitors progress towards outcomes of the Farley Big Local's vision and plan.
- **6.** Ensures appropriate structures for meaningful engagement with residents are in place.
- **7.** 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 Farley Big Local vision and plan.
- **8.** Approves arrangements for the management and administration of the Partnership, including overseeing relations with the Local Trusted Organisation.
- **9.** Invests and maintains links with Local Trust and across the Big Local programme.
- **10.** Reviews the Partnership structure and its effectiveness.
- **11.** Has the power to raise funds and amend the constitution, subject to an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) or AGM with 21 days' notice detailing the amendment.

Membership of the Partnership

- 1. Resident/volunteer and Partner/organisation members on the Partnership will have full voting rights. The Partnership will be made up of at least 51% residents/volunteers, so the vote will always be weighted towards the residents/volunteers.
- 2. Resident membership will be reviewed at each AGM or at an Extraordinary General Meeting called for that purpose. Nominations from residents will be taken in writing in advance. A short-written application of reasons for standing will be submitted by each candidate seeking election. Voting will take place, as the Partnership sees fit i.e. by a show of hands, local event or ballot paper is drawn up.
- **3.** Where vacancies exist on the Partnership Board, members can be added by a majority of votes. This is known as Co-opting voting resident members as required to fill vacancies between AGM's. This must be an agenda item for the next Partnership meeting and enough time needs to be given to the Partnership to assess any applications.
- **4.** Co-opted partnership members will be expected to go through the same process as one would for an AGM. i.e. fill out an application form. When the co-opted member has been selected onto the board they will be regarded as having full voting rights and are expected to sign and follow the FBL's Code of Conduct.
- **5.** The Partnership will have 3 permanent voting partners on the board- LTO, LBC Community Development and the Local Councillor. One vote per organisation.
- **6.** There will be a maximum of 20 Partnership members.
- **7.** There will be a minimum of 4 and maximum of 15 resident/ 'friend' members elected by residents at the AGM or through Co-opting.

- **8.** Farley Big Local will work towards engaging young people within FBL activities.
- **9.** There will be a minimum of 1
- and a maximum of 3 Partners. The members will be selected by the Partnership to bring in additional expertise, leverage and funding to support the vision and strategic direction of our Board.
- **10.** Out of 15 resident spaces a maximum of two can be used for 'friends' i.e. non-resident members, who in the boards opinion have sufficient involvement in the happening of Farley.
- **11.** To reserve but not necessarily to fill, two voting partner vacancies for use in scenarios where FBL identifies significant need or where they may benefit FBL, i.e. match funding the currant sum.
- **12.** The number of 'residents' must make up at least be 51% of the Partnership.

Responsibilities of Partnership Members

Resident/volunteer members will be responsible to:

- 1. Ensure the accountability and the strategic direction of Farley Big Local is taking place.
- **2.** Actively encourage people in the area to play their part in supporting Farley Big Local and its projects and activities.
- **3.** Ensure concerns are addressed and that planned activity has local support.
- **4.** Ensure effective communication between the Partnership and members of the community.
- **5.** Contribute to collective decision making based on clear evidence.
- **6.** The Partnership should take part in Community Partnership meetings, sub-groups, AGM and Farley Big Local community events throughout the year.
- **7.** Attendance of Partnership members should be at least 60% for the year-depending on the individual's circumstances. Members who have less than 60% attendance of full partnership meetings will be reviewed. *Partnership shall consider reasons for lack of attendance*.
- **8.** Act in accordance with the general ground rules of FBL's Code of Conduct and the constitution.

Residents who are employed by local partner agencies e.g. Local Authority and are on the Partnership Board, will be acting as local residents. This will be acknowledged and respected by all Partnership members.

Partner/organisation members will be responsible to:

- **1.** Provide relevant advice, knowledge and expertise to the Community Partnership.
- 2. Contribute to Farley Big Local from their lead organisation.
- **3.** Act as advocate for the Partnership within their organisation and seeking to change practice and policy to the benefit of the Partnership, where possible.
- **4.** In addition, the Local Trusted Organisation (currently Age Concern Luton) will act as the accountable body and ensure timely and accurate reporting to Local Trust on financial and delivery on outcomes.
- **5.** Partners must nominate their representative and that representative must attend meetings to ensure continuity.
- **6.** Partner organisations can send deputies in the absence of their normal representative as long as they make the Partnership aware at the beginning of each meeting.

- **7.** If a representative from a Partner Organisation is unable to attend, their deputy from the same organisation will assume voting rights. Effectively standing- in for them.
- **8.** Each partner agency will have one representative present during meetings.
- **9.** Throughout the Delivery of the Farley Big Local Plan several organisations will be invited to Big Local meetings on a temporary basis to help project delivery. However, they will have no voting rights.

Chairing, Vice Chair and Treasurer

The Board will appoint a Chair who is a resident in Farley Hill by a majority of votes. The Chair will provide leadership for the Big Local in Farley and must have a good understanding of the Big Local programme and what's happening in the area. They usually chair the meetings in sympathy with the values and code of conduct stated within this document, agree the agenda, ensure that all members are encouraged and enabled to make contributions and act as the spokesperson for the organisation. They may also have a casting vote at meetings if a decision is 'tied' – i.e. they have two votes occasionally. FBL will also appoint a vice-Chair who can help the Chair with their responsibilities and deputise for them, the vice chair will be CC'd into all communications.

- 1. At AGM's Individuals who would like to put themselves forward as a Chair or Vice Chair- must have attended previous Partnership meetings and understand FBL's Purpose.
- 2. A Chair or Vice Chair would' normally be elected at the first meeting after the AGM. the AGM, however following resignations or dismissals they could be replaced through co-opting during the year by a majority of votes from the Partnership Board.

A resident member of the Partnership Board shall have an overview finances, acting as a Treasurer. The Treasurer in conjunction with the Chair shall authorise payments. They will work closely with the Local Trusted Organisation (LTO) to keep track of how much money is available and expenditure to date. They will present an Annual Account Report at the AGM and a Finance Report at each Partnership meeting.

Decision making

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

- 1. The Partnership meeting is quorate when the meeting is attended by at least four residents and one Partner. Matters to be voted on must be deferred to the next meetings should there be no quorum. Making sure that there should be at least 51% with a resident majority.
- **2.** The decision is agreed by a majority of voting members present.
- **3.** Any decision relating to commitments or actions to or by Partners/ organisations is only taken with their consent and their attendance within meetings.
- **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. With the permission of the Chair/ Vice Chair. The FBL Worker will use electronic means for communication and vote taking.

Frequency

- **1.** The Board will meet every 6 weeks for a Partnership Meeting, with additional meetings convened with the agreement of the Chair.
- **2.** The agenda of meetings will be highlighted on the Farley Big Local's social media and sent out via email to the Partnership.

Purpose and aims

The purpose of the Partnership is primarily to oversee the implementation of the Farley Big Local Plan. In addition to this, it will provide a single coordinating framework that:

- **1.** Agrees the long term strategic direction for Farley Big Local.
- **2.** Promotes the needs and aspirations of the local community through: a shared vision, themes and priorities
- **3.** Prepares, implements and monitors the Farley Big Local Plan.

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

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

In fulfilling these aims, the Partnership will:

- **1.** Bring together residents and different parts of the public sector, private, voluntary and community sectors in a spirit of collaboration and mutual support to help make Farley Hill an even better place to live, work and visit.
- 2. Promote the engagement of communities and citizens in a inclusive way.

Values

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

- We will work in a fair, inclusive, respectful, honest and transparent way.
- We will foster a friendly and welcoming atmosphere in all that we do.
- We will support anyone fitting the membership criteria to become actively involved.
- Partnership Members work will be reviewed so that barriers can be reduced.
- We accept there will be different views within the Community Partnership. When differences or conflict arise, these will be dealt with fairly and openly, focusing on the issues or opinions, not on the individual.
- We will communicate in an accessible way with our community, through a range of approaches, including events, newspapers, radio and social media.
- We will support, engage and work with other groups in the area that have similar or overlapping objectives.
- We uphold the idea of 'sticky money' as we want the Farley Big Local investment to have the greatest impact on the Farley Hill Ward.
- We will adhere to the Farley Big Local Communication Paper, version 2, 17.01.2018

Conduct

- **1.** All meetings shall be conducted with good practice and particularly the principles of openness, fairness and mutual respect.
- **2.** The FBL Partnership should act in accordance with the code of conduct, terms of reference and roles and responsibilities which are all separate documents.
- **3.** The Code of Conduct should be signed by all Partnership members.
- **4.** The ruling of the Chair will be final.
- **5.** A Partnership member who does not comply with the Terms of Reference and Code of Conduct or who does not attend three consecutive Partnership meetings without notice may have their membership reviewed by the Partnership and terminated if decided upon by a two thirds majority of resident voting members

Declaration of Interest

- **1.** A member must declare an interest if he or she has a direct or indirect personal or financial interest in the matter under discussion.
- 2. 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.
- **3.** 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

- **1.** Agendas will normally be sent to Members 5 clear working days in advance of each meeting, although failure to meet this requirement will not invalidate the meeting. A chair or Vice Chair will confirm Agendas before sending this out to the Board. Agendas and papers will be sent by e-mail, unless requested otherwise. A reminder of Partnership meetings will be given a day in advance or on the same day as the meeting.
- 2. Copies of agendas will be published on Farley Big Local's Social Media.
- **3.** Minutes will be circulated within 15 working days of meetings.
- 4. Notice of meetings will be published on FBL's Social Media.

Admission to the Public Press

- 1. All meetings of the Partnership are open to the public and press unless the Partnership determines that discussion of a particular topic justifies a closed session. Special meetings and development days will generally be by invitation.
- **2.** Each Partnership meeting will contain a question and answer item at the conclusion of business. Members of the public or press may ask questions relevant to the business transacted and the Chair will determine the nature of the response. The Chair will use his/her discretion in determining the time allocated to this item and to individual questions.
- **3.** It is at the discretion of the Chair to ask any member of the public to withdraw from the meeting where inappropriate conduct or the nature of matters under discussion requires it for the effective progression of the meeting.

AGM/EGM

- **1.** An AGM will take place annually at a date set at the previous AGM.
- **2.** An EGM can take place at any time throughout the year when 51%+ of the Partnership Board requests it, and the proposed matters are appropriate to an EGM. The meeting rules for an EGM will be the same as for an AGM.
- 3. 21 days + notice will be given for an AGM/ EGM.
- **4.** Voting rights are for members who would normally be entitled to vote immediately before the AGM. Any agreed changes to membership, voting rights or terms of reference shall become effective immediately upon the conclusion of the AGM.

5.

- A vote will take place to re-elect all existing qualifying members who wish to be re-elected the discussion about any existing member, who had not maintained at least 60% attendance over the previous 12 months. Reasons for non-attendance will be considered. New applicants seeking election on to the partnership can present their case to the partnership but must leave the room when voting takes place. A person who becomes ineligible to be re-elected can at a future date re-apply through the normal application process.
- A vote will take place to elect any new members requesting to join (same rules apply as for CO-OPTED members wishing to join throughout the year).
- Partnership members should state 14 days prior to the AGM their intention to stand for officer positions. Eligibility for these positions is governed by: attendance at previous Partnership meetings and understanding Farley Big Local's purpose; the

- above member us entitled to stand for any officer positions. However, once a person is elected into a position they will be removed from consideration for other positions.
- A vote will take place to elect officer positions. Officers would normally be elected at the partnership meeting after the AGM, however following resignations or dismissals they could be replaced through co-option during the year by majority of votes from the Partnership Board.
- Any other business that has been requested by a board member, giving 21 days + notice, is appropriate for an AGM / EGM
- At the boards discretion other business of an emergency nature can be discussed.
- A date will be set for the next AGM at every AGM/ EGM.

General Principles of Conduct

The Farley Big Local Partnership Board should act in fairness and meet FBL rules governing in the everyday conduct.

Individuals should:

- 1. Be Honest and show Integrity
- 2. Be Open
- **3.** Have **Respect** for Others
- 4. Have a Duty to uphold the Law
- 5. Promote Leadership
- 6. Be Accountable
- 7. Show a sense of **Stewardship**
- **8.** Hold qualities of being **Objective**
- 9. Act Selflessness
- 10. Be positive about Personal Judgement

Farley Big Local-Roles and Responsibilities

Roles	What the roles involves	Do you, are you or can you
Chair	 Chair meetings and help steer the pathway for Farley Big Local Chair to sign the agreement with the Local Trust Provide leadership for FBL and must have a good understanding of the FBL Programme/ happenings in the area. Chair meetings, finalise agendas and act as a spokesperson for FBL Will receive a casting vote at meetings if a decision is tied- i.e. they have two votes occasionally. 	 Want to lead or develop leadership skills Have a long term positive vision for how the Big Local area will be like Happy to be contacted by other members and the FBL Worker Happy to chair meetings keeping to time and valuing the contribution from everybody Helping to ensure that actions are implemented Push for Project Delivery when agreed by the Partnership.
Vice Chair	 Step in as a Chair when the Chair is absent. The vice chair will be CC'd into all communications. skills and characteristics needed are very similar to those of the chairman Vice chairman assumes the role of chairman, usually temporarily, and has the power to make organizational decisions after receiving feedback from the rest of the Partnership Board. 	Willing to support the Chair, work closely with the chair, develop on their leadership, happy to help coordinate and deputise.
Treasurer	 To ensure record is kept of all income and expenditure. Work closely with the Local Trusted Organisation (LTO) Keep track of how much money is available and being spent. Present accounts for the Partnership each year. Put together a finance report for each partnership meeting Try and seek additional funding from outside sources. i.e. Match funding, funding to support project delivery, funding to top up FBL's currant balance. 	 Keep clear records of proposals for spending money. Want to explore ways in which smalls sums can be distributed to the community e.g. community chests. Want to identify additional sources of finance to support activities.
Resident/ Volunteers	 Contribute to collective decision making based on clear evidence Take an active part in the Community Partnership meetings, sub-groups, AGM and Farley Big Local community events during the year Ensure concerns are addressed and that planned activity has local support 	 Know the Farley Hill estate Live on the estate Have a range of skills to bring to the Partnership Board Team player Willing to support the Partnership Board

	 Ensure the accountability and the strategic direction of Farley Big local is taking place Ensure effective communication between the Partnership and members of the community Act in accordance with the general ground rules of conduct and the constitution. 	
Partner/ Organisation	 Provide relevant advice, knowledge and expertise to the Community Partnership Provide additional impact and contribution to the Farley Big Local from their lead organisation of other bodies Act as advocates for the Partnership within their organisation and seeking to change practise and policy to the benefit of the Partnership The LTO will act as the accountable body and ensure timely and accurate reporting 	 Willing to support the Partnership Board to achieve FBL's best outcomes Guide residents on the board to make constructive decisions and achieve outcomes from the delivery plan. Offer commitment expertise

Sub-committees and working groups

It is often a good idea to delegate some responsibilities for the more detailed tasks to smaller, semipermanent, groups rather than for everything to come to the big Partnership meetings to be discussed. These groups will be answerable to the Partnership but conduct their business in between the main meetings.

The working groups will be the main way for the action plan to be delivered. They will be made up of interested residents, volunteers and staff working for organisations serving local people.

Decision making

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

- 1. The meeting is quorate (meeting attended by at least the minimum number of members that are needed in order for votes to count). The business of the Partnership may be progressed but any matters to be voted on must be deferred to the next meeting.
- **2.** The decision is agreed by a majority of voting members present.
- **3.** Any decision relating to commitments to or by Partners/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.

Farley Big local- Code of Conduct

I AGREE THAT:

- 1. I will abide by the law and our Big Local policies and procedures
- **2.** I will declare any conflict of interest or loyalty, or any circumstances that might be viewed by others as such, as soon as it arises.
- **3.** I will not personally gain materially or financially from my role as a member, nor will I permit others to do so as a result of my actions or negligence.
- **4.** I will strive to act in the best interests of Farley Big Local.
- 5. When I am speaking as a member of the Partnership, my comments will reflect the work of the Partnership even when these do not agree with my personal views. When speaking as a private individual I will strive to uphold the reputation of the Partnership and those who work in it.
- **6.** I will strive to read all documents and attend all meetings, giving apologies ahead of time to the Chair or the FBL Worker if unable to attend.
- **7.** I will engage in debate and voting in meetings according to procedure, maintaining a respectful attitude toward the opinions of others while making my voice heard.
- **8.** I will accept a majority vote on an issue as decisive and final.
- **9.** I will maintain confidentiality about what goes on in the meetings unless authorised by the Chair or Partnership Board to share information and until the minutes of the meeting are made public.
- **10.** Any issues in regard to members of the board, I will raise in a respectful and calm manner.
- 11. I will participate in inductions, training and development activities for members.
- **12.** I understand that substantial breach of any part of this code may result in my removal as a member.
- **13.** If I resign as a member I will inform the Chair in writing, stating my reasons for resigning. Additionally, I will if requested participate in an exit interview.

Farley Big Local- Communications

- 1) Full Partnership meetings shall be held every 6 weeks as agreed by the Partnership at its meeting on 21.03.2018.
- 2) All partnership members will be emailed information about meeting dates, meeting notes and updates on Big local developments. All correspondence will go out to all Partnership members.
- 3) In circumstances where there are Sub Group meetings or information relevant to residents only then they will be e-mailed Partnership members will be notified of these. For example: if meetings take place, the Partnership will be made aware of the meetings- the outcome will be discussed or communicated through: Partnership meetings, monthly updates or through minutes of meetings.
- 4) When corresponding with day to day matters regarding Big Local the worker & LTO will always cc the Chair and the Vice Chair in.
- 5) Partnership business and information shall be shared among all partnership members.
- 6) Any business and information which takes place outside of full partnership meetings will be shared through (but not limited to) monthly updates provided by the Big Local Worker at each Partnership meeting, quarterly newsletters, minutes of meetings etc. the update paper will include updates from any key correspondences and meetings the worker has had. The updates paper will include the key correspondence information about any meetings.
- 7) Communication exchanges outside of full partnership meetings shall be conducted in most part via email or through other electronical devices.
- 8) All Partnership members must be available and responsive particular in time sensitive scenarios.
- 9) It is the responsibility of partnership members to read/listen to materials as and when given and respond where necessary.
- 10) It is the responsibility of partnership members to inform the Big Local Worker should their contact details including postal address, telephone numbers and email change.
- 11) It is the responsibility of those partnership members representing organisations to brief their own colleagues at those organisations regarding Farley Big Local activity and developments and to feed relevant information to the Partnership about developments in their organization.
- 12) Nick Dockery is your Farley Big Local Chair and can be reached at <u>nickdockery@me.com</u>
- 13) For all enquiries Hina Malik is your Farley Big Local Worker and can be reached at;

c/o Age Concern Luton Bradbury House 39 King Street Luton, Beds LU1 2DW

hinamalik@ageconcernluton.org.uk

01582 456812/ 07388228609

Hina's working hours are;

Tuesday 9am – 5pm Wednesday 9am – 5pm Thursday 9am - 5pm

- 14) Your Locally Trusted Organisation is Age Concern Luton (Colette McKeaveney & Kay Adjei) and they can be reached on 01582 456812 at the aforementioned Bradbury House address Monday to Friday between 9am and 5pm.
- 15) Your Big Local Rep is Paul Bragman and can be reached at paul@communityregen.net

Decisions Between Meetings

- 16) Partnership members can vote on issues and pass motions without holding physical partnership meetings. This exercise shall be known as 'Flying Minutes'. General rules for these are;
- a) The motion must usually be in writing and given to all Partnership members.
- b) The motion must be passed by a simple majority
- c) Quorum rules as they would in a normal partnership meeting shall apply
- d) It is important that the Partnership confirms any motions that have been voted on outside of a Partnership meeting at its next Full Partnership meeting, to ensure the accuracy of the motion
- 17) The Partnership should take care to reserve the use of this procedure for issues where there is a genuine emergency or urgency or where there is little need for deliberation and a simple yes/no vote will suffice.
- 18) Flying minutes should contain:
 - a) The background information in relation to the matter being consulted up on
 - b) A motion proposed in relation to the matter(s)
 - c) and a response section which is to be completed by members and returned by the specific deadline. That response section shall state that they agree or disagree with the draft motion
 - d) the flying minute itself which amounts to a summary of what has been agreed by members

COMMUNICATION PLAN for Farley Big Local

Target Audience	Communication Tools FBL will use	Action Plan
WHO	WHAT	HOW
Farley Big Local Partnership- Residents and Partners on the Partnership Board.	E-mail updates	FBL will share relevant e-mails with all elected Partners and Residents on the board. It is their responsibility to share these with their colleagues who may attend on the elected Partners/ residents behalf.
	Monthly update	A monthly update will be shared with Board members on activities, meetings and key correspondences on FBL movements.
	Sub Group meetings	The Partnership board will be made aware of any sub group meetings and meetings in general. Minutes of these will follow and the board will be made aware of these at the Bi-monthly partnership meetings.
	6 weekly Partnership meetings	FBL will hold 6 weekly Partnership meetings. A table for 2018 of future meetings, has been shared with the board. Notice of meetings, agenda and a venue will be circulated to members of the board closer to meeting dates.
	E-mails for the Chair and the Vice Chair	E-mails which are forwarded or has cc'd in the Chair will also have the Vice Chair cc'd in so that one or the other can pick up e-mails and they

		are able to support each other.
Community of the Farley Big Local ward: businesses, stakeholders and residents	Quarterly Newsletters	Newsletter will be distributed to Farley residents around FBL activities, local programmes, courses, achievements etc. The aim is to get these out quarterly.
	Social Media- active facebook, Instagram and Twitter accounts.	Stakeholder, Schools and businesses will be made aware of FBL's social media sites encases they would like FBL to advertise information, programs, highlights etc. on their behalf. FBL will also use this to advertise local activities and glories from the estate.
	Farley Big Local Website	FBL members need to look into identifying someone who could upgrade FBL's currant website.
	Meet and Greet event	A meet and greet will be organized from FBL for residents or for people beyond the big local area to enable them to meet and greet the Partnership board and find out about FBL developments.
	Big Local notices	Depending on FBL activities, notices, vacancies, programmes etc these will be made visual for residents around local shops, schools, businesses or local faith groups.
Beyond the Big Local Area	Identify potential Delivery Partners	Who may be able to support FBL in delivering the outcomes from the Delivery Plan.

Identify potential Delivery Providers	Who may able to supply or contribute in delivering outcomes from the FBL Delivery Plan
Identify charities	Who may match fund Big Local's currant balance.





