

North Tyneside Council Report to Cabinet Date: 9 December 2013

ITEM 6(a)

Response to Overview and
Scrutiny Committee Report
on Community Engagement

Portfolio(s): Community Engagement

Cabinet Member(s): Councillor Carole
Burdis

Report from : Chief Executive's Office

Report Author: Jackie Laughton, Strategic Manager, Policy, Partnerships, Performance and Communications
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Wards affected: All

PART 1

1.1 Purpose:

The purpose of the report is for Cabinet to consider the recommendations as set out in Appendix One received from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in relation to its study into Community Engagement.

1.2 Recommendation:

It is recommended that Cabinet agrees the proposed response to the recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on Community Engagement as set out in Appendix One of this report.

1.3 Forward Plan:

This report appears on the Forward Plan first published on the 23rd October 2013.

1.4 Council Plan and Policy Framework

This report relates to the following priorities in the 2014-18 Our North Tyneside Plan:

Our People will:

Be listened to by services that respond better and faster to their needs

Be supported to achieve their potential, especially our children and young people.

1.5 Information:

Background

1.5.1 Cabinet received the recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in relation to its study on Community Engagement at its meeting on 14 October 2013.

- 1.5.2 A Community Engagement sub-group had been established by Overview and Scrutiny Committee in July 2013. The remit of the group was to contribute to the development of a new community engagement strategy that would replace area forums with a more ward-based approach to engagement.
- 1.5.3 As part of the review the sub-group consulted with a wide range of council officers and looked widely at examples of engagement strategies from other local authorities.
- 1.5.4 Throughout the review a key principle emerged that Ward Councillors need to take a clear lead in ward level engagement and that officers should be there to support them in this community leadership role. The need to always provide residents with feedback following any consultation or engagement was strongly emphasised, as the group felt this was key to keeping people engaged and positive about the impact they can have.
- 1.5.5 The sub-group identified a total of 11 recommendations throughout the review which are aimed at helping to develop and establish successful ward based engagement and provide support to Ward Councillors.
- 1.5.6 Set out in Appendix One is Cabinet's response to the Overview and Scrutiny recommendations.

1.6 Decision options:

The following decision options are available for consideration by Cabinet:

Option 1

Agree the recommendations set out in section 1.2 of this report

Option 2

Not agree the recommendations set out in section 1.2 of this report

Option 3

Refer the recommendations set out in 1.2 back for further consideration.

Option 1 is the recommended option.

1.7 Reasons for recommended option:

Option 1 is recommended for the following reasons: Cabinet needs to respond to the recommendations made by the Overview and scrutiny committee.

1.8 Appendices:

Cabinet's response to the Overview and Scrutiny recommendations.

1.9 Contact officers:

Jackie Laughton, Strategic Manager, Policy, Partnerships,
Performance and Communications, Chief Executive's Office
Felicity Shoesmith, Partnership and Involvement Manager
Alison Campbell, Finance Business Manager

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643 7071
643 7038

1.10 Background information:

The following background papers/information have been used in the compilation of this report and are available at the office of the author:

- (1) Report to Cabinet 14 October 2013 on Community Engagement from Overview and Scrutiny.

PART 2 – COMPLIANCE WITH PRINCIPLES OF DECISION MAKING

2.1 Finance and other resources

It is anticipated that cost of delivering the new ways of engaging with residents will be managed within existing budgets. However, if new proposals do require any additional funding, a further report will be brought to Cabinet for approval.

2.2 Legal

There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

2.3 Consultation/community engagement

2.3.1 Internal Consultation

The Cabinet Member for Community Engagement, officers involved in community engagement and the Communication and Engagement Network have been consulted as part of developing the action plan set out in Appendix One of this report.

2.3.2 External Consultation/Engagement

New community conversations and the mayors listening sessions has started and residents have been consulted at these events. Information has also been made available to residents and other stakeholders through the Our North Tyneside Council magazine and on the Authority's website.

2.4 Human rights

There are no human rights implications directly arising from this report.

2.5 Equalities and diversity

Residents who attend Community Engagement events are encouraged to complete equality monitoring forms. This information is actively monitored to ensure that community engagement continues to be inclusive and take account of the best way for people to get involved.

2.6 Risk management

Any significant risks arising from the recommendations will be considered as part of implementation and discussions with the Senior Risk Advisor.

2.7 Crime and disorder

There are no crime and disorder issues directly arising from this report.

2.8 Environment and sustainability

The development of new ways to engage with residents, reaching a wider demographic and ultimately more residents, will improve the consultation process for environmental projects.

PART 3 - SIGN OFF

- Chief Executive X
- Mayor/Cabinet Member(s) X
- Chief Finance Officer X
- Monitoring Officer X
- Strategic Manager Policy, Partnerships, Performance and Communications X