

Meeting: Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date: 1 July 2013

Title: Community Engagement

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Directorate: Chief Executives

Wards affected: all

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To inform Overview and Scrutiny of the proposals to develop a new approach to Community Engagement.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to consider the Cabinet Report and supporting documentation and agree how best take forward a piece of work on community engagement in order to contribute to the developing policy in this area.

3. Details

In April 2013 Area Forums were stopped. At the time it was agreed that new forms of engagement would be developed that would enable a wider range of people to participate in engagement.

As part of developing these new forms of engagement on the 8th July Cabinet will be asked to agree to some key principles for community engagement. These are:

- Elected Members, Residents and the Council will work together to listen and involve the people affected by issues, plans and developments.
- A targeted consistent approach to engagement; that matches methods to the audience, subject and time with clear outcomes and feedback for everyone.
- Improved co-ordination, across the Council as well as with partners.
- Clarity and honesty about how engagement influences council decision making.

- Engagement is a continual process that includes regular feedback.

Overview and Scrutiny will be asked to help develop a new approach to community engagement that will include the development of ward level engagement, identify the support members might need to take a more active role in community engagement within their ward, map current networks and groups, including networks set up by different service areas within the Council or by Partners.

The Cabinet report for the 8th July will be circulated prior to the meeting.

Following the discussion around the proposals for replacing the area forums and how overview and scrutiny could make positive contributions through its study into community engagement, Members need to consider how best to progress this piece of work. It has previously been suggested that establishing a sub-group would be preferable, as this would allow more flexibility in meeting times, frequency and more detailed discussions with a wider range of stakeholders. This sub-group would be made up of 4/5 members, cross party if possible, and report its findings and conclusions back to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at a future meeting

4. Appendices

- Cabinet report on Community Engagement – April 2013
- Community Engagement Framework
- Engagement Strategy

5. Background Information

The following documents have been used in the compilation of this report and may be inspected at the offices of the author.