



REPORT TO: COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE ON 1 DECEMBER 2009

**SUBJECT: BETTER COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT DEMONSTRATION
PILOT**

BY: CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1. The report seeks to update members of the Communities Committee on the current development of the Better Community Engagement Demonstration Project.
- 1.2. This report is submitted to Committee in terms of Section A(42) of the Council's Administrative Scheme relating to the exercise of the statutory functions of the Council under the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003 to initiate, maintain and facilitate Community Planning, the process by which public services in Moray are provided and planned for.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 **It is recommended that the Community Committee notes and supports the continuing development of the Better Community Engagement Pilot project.**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 At the meeting of the Community Engagement Strategic Group on 13 Aug 2009, (*paragraph 4 of the minute refers*) it was agreed It was agreed to support the development of the Moray Better Community Engagement local demonstration project.
- 3.2 As part of the strategy to improve community empowerment the Government has made an investment in the development of an integrated programme to develop skills, learning and networking in relation to community empowerment and engagement.

- 3.3 The model for delivery of this project is a national development programme which will operate through a small number of local demonstration projects. Learning materials and programmes based on the Better Community Engagement Framework will be developed, to meet the needs of that delivering community engagement in local areas.
- 3.4 Moray was selected to participate as one of ten pilots in Scotland. Since July 2009, the group, made up of community based organisation representatives such as Community Councils, Area Forums, Village hall Committees, Moray Equalities Forum, Volunteer Centre Moray and MVSO have met 5 times to take this project forward.
- 3.5 The main purpose of the meetings has been to develop an action plan for implementing the Scottish Governments aims and objectives for better community engagement and at a Better Community Engagement meeting on 2 November 2009, members, now recognised as the core steering group, endorsed an Action Plan for Moray. **(See appendix A)**
- 3.6 In advance of the Action Plan being fully implemented in February 2010, Community Planning Partners will be identified as possible candidates to participate in local pilot activity projects to develop Better Community Engagement toolkits. These pilots will involve agency staff and members of the Better Community Engagement Steering Group who reside in the area in which the pilots will be taking place. A draft operating framework for implementing the pilots has been developed. **(See appendix B)**

4. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

- (a) **Single Outcome Agreement/Service Improvement Plan**
This initiative will contribute to National Outcome 11 in the Single Outcome Agreement; "we have strong resilient communities where people take responsibility for their own actions and how they affect others" and to National Outcome 15; "our public services are high quality, continually improving, efficient and responsive to local people's needs".
- (b) **Policy and Legal**
The Local Government Scotland Act 2003 requires that the Community Planning Partnership engage with community bodies and organisations as part of the Community Planning process. In April 2008 the Scottish Government (SG) and Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA) issued a joint statement of commitment to community empowerment.
- (c) **Resources (Financial, Risks, Staffing and Property)**

Any costs can be made from existing budgets. The work of the Local Demonstration Project will be supported by the staff of the Community Support Unit.

(d) Consultations

Those consulted include the Chair of the Community Engagement Group, Moray Area Forum, Joint Community Council, MVSO, Lhanbryde Challenge, Strathisla Regeneration Partnership, Moray Federation of Village Hall Committees, Health and Social Care Partnership, LEAD Scotland, Moray Equalities Forum have been made aware of the pilot

5. CONCLUSION

5.1 That Communities Committee are asked to note the development of the Better Community Engagement pilot and to support the development of the project

Author of Report: Ian Todd Community Support Unit manager

Background Papers:

Ref:

Signature:



Date : 23 | 11 | 09

Designation:

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Name: ANASTAIR KEDDIE