



Your Moray - Your Community

REPORT TO: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT GROUP ON 5 NOVEMBER 2009

SUBJECT: BETTER COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT DEMONSTRATION PILOT

BY: COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1. The report seeks to update members of the Community Engagement Group on the current development of the Better Community Engagement Demonstration Project.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 **It is recommended that the Community Engagement Group note the progress of the project and acknowledge the commitment by community representatives on the group.**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 At the meeting of the Community Engagement Strategic Group on 13 August 2009, it was agreed that the Community Support Unit Manager for engagement would regularly update the group on developments of the Better Community Engagement (BCE) demonstration project.
- 3.2 As part of the Government 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 those delivering community engagement in local areas.
- 3.4 In Moray 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 4 times since July 2009. A small steering group for the project in Moray has been established

- 3.5 The main purpose of the meetings have been to develop an Action Plan for implementing the Scottish Governments aims and objectives for better community engagement as highlighted in the previous report to the Community Engagement Strategic Group.
- 3.6 It is anticipated that at the planned meeting on 2 November 2009, the core steering group, will endorse the *Draft Action Plan*. **(Please see Appendix A)**
- 3.7 In advance of the Draft Action Plan being fully implemented at the beginning of 2010, it is also anticipated that a local pilot will take place in New Elgin to “test” the processes being considered in the Draft Action Plan and the outcomes of this local pilot will assist with any changes that require to be made. **(Please see Appendix B)**
- 3.8 At the meeting of the Community Engagement Strategic Group on 13 August 2009, it was agreed that the Chairperson of the Community Engagement Strategic Group should become a member of the steering group. The Chairperson attended his first meeting on 29 September, 2009.

4. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

(a) Single Outcome Agreement

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 on the Better Community Engagement project 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 The Community Engagement Group has established a steering group and progress is being made on the development of the "Better Community Engagement" pilot which acknowledges commitment by community representatives on the group and supports the continuing development of the project.

Author of Report: Ian Todd, Community Support Unit Manager
Background Papers: Draft Action Plan and New Elgin local Pilot Initiative
Ref:

Signature:  _____

Date: 21/10/09

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