



Your Moray - Your Community

REPORT TO: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT GROUP ON 5 NOVEMBER 2009

**SUBJECT: PROPOSED COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FRAMEWORK AND
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT GROUP SURVEY**

BY: COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 The Community Engagement Group is asked consider the Community Engagement Framework and an initial evaluation report in relation to the Moray Community Planning Partnership (MCP).

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 The Community Engagement Group is asked to:

- (a) Note a draft framework for community engagement and consider its use for implementation across the partnership
- (b) Consider recommendations from the survey which will assist in meeting the best practice model outlined in the draft framework for community engagement model

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 At the Community Engagement Strategic Group on 22 January 2009, it was agreed to implement the Community Engagement action plan. This report relates to the following actions contained in the plan:

- Action 2 – “develop guidelines for community engagement in Moray: carry out research and produce draft framework” (Aug '09)
- Action 5 – “benchmark with other CPPs across Scotland – identify examples of good practice (June '09)
- Action 8 – “carry out regular performance monitoring and evaluation of community engagement to ensure a culture of continuous improvement” - carry out initial self-evaluation of current community engagement practices (end Sept '09) identify appropriate performance indicators to measure effective engagement (end Sept '09)

3.2 Two appendices to this report are attached:

- **Appendix 1** – is a draft framework for community engagement which provides five themes (or pillars) with eight high-level success factors. The framework can be extended to include typical local examples of activities, methods and performance measures which satisfy the requirements of the national standards for community engagement. It will take account of the issues raised in the survey.
- **Appendix 2** – is an initial evaluation report on an internal survey of the Community Engagement Group carried out in July and August 2009 using the draft framework model and based on this there are eight recommendations for consideration.

3.3 The model developed by the Network of Empowering Authorities (**NEA**) October 2008. The **NEA** is a network of 18 councils from across England, chosen by the UK Government to help champion community empowerment and it is supported by the **Improvement and Development Agency (IDeA)**. The Framework also draws widely on other research, evidence and assessment frameworks. It has been developed in England with the involvement of other partners including the Audit Commission, Communities and Local Government, Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnerships, Regional Empowerment Partnerships and Government Offices.

3.4 The NEA model could provide the basis of developing a more localised framework for use by all the partners.

3.5 Further work would be required by the Community Engagement Group on the practical application of a framework and how this could be implemented by all the partners.

4. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

(a) **Single Outcome Agreement**

The Community Planning Partnership and related structures are responsible for the delivery and commitments within the SOA.

(b) **Policy and Legal**

The Local Government Scotland Act 2003 requires that the partnership engage with community bodies as part of the community planning process. The Council must meet the requirements of the Scottish Government to comply with the Concordat. The Community Planning Statutory Partners are required to sign up to the whole SOA and be held accountable for its delivery. The Audit Commission has given clear indications that the new Local Government audit process will include an audit of community engagement processes. The Moray Council's Strategy on Consultation and Community Engagement commits the Council to develop its community engagement in line with the National Standards for Community Engagement.

(c) **Consultations**

All members of the Community Engagement Group were given the opportunity to take part in the survey. Those who responded were consulted on their individual responses before compilation of this report.

5. **CONCLUSION**

5.1 **The Community Engagement Group is invited to consider the framework and eight recommendations contained in the evaluation of community engagement.**

Author of Report: Martine Scott Project Development Officer

Background Papers:

Ref:

Signature:  _____

Date: 21/10/09

Designation: Community Planning and
Development Manager

Name: John Ferguson