

**REPORT TO: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT GROUP ON 18 FEBRUARY 2010**

**SUBJECT: BETTER COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT DEMONSTRATION PILOT**

**BY: COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT MANAGER, THE MORAY COUNCIL**

**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 notes the progress of the Better Community Engagement Steering Group.**

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 Since the last report to the Community Engagement Group on 1 December 2009 the steering group have met only once due to the Christmas and New Year break.

- 3.2 A background information pack and action plan information pack has been produced and distributed to elected members, community planning partners via the CPP database, the e-bulletin, specific agency and council staff such as police, education officers, and college and as a press release via the council's website. The aim of the pack is to inform those wanting additional information than what has already been distributed and also to attract those considering becoming involved in the local pilot projects planned for 2010. **(Appendix 1)**

- 3.3 Responses so far have been positive and interest expressed regarding possible pilot projects have been received to date from:

- Moray ESOL Strategy Group
- Milne's Area Forum Moray Adult Literacy's Partnership and the Moray Council Literacy and Language team
- Elgin Community Council / Elgin South & North Area Forums and Grampian Police
- Grampian Police, CLD Youth Team and the educational teacher for Gypsy / traveller people

- 3.4 The Steering Group will be supported to organise a launch and information event for the programme at New Elgin Hall on Monday 1 March between 1 pm and 4.30pm aimed at prospective local pilot project partners. This session will cover

general information about community engagement, information about the programme and more detail about pilot project ideas. **(Appendix 2)**  
Wendy Louise Smith (who is the key civil servant for the programme within the Scottish Government) will be attending the session on 1 March 2010.

- 3.5 Projects will be selected by the steering group at their meeting following the launch.
- 3.6 The National Advisory Group would like to meet with representatives from all the local demonstration projects in Scotland. This meeting will take place on Tues 23 March 2010 in Glasgow. A national conference for the programme is also planned in the spring.

#### **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 met 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 members of the Steering Group who include the Chair of the Community Engagement Group, Moray Area Forums, Moray Community Councils, MVSO, Volunteer Moray, Moray Village Hall Committees, and Moray Equalities Forum who are all active members in the development of this project.

#### **5. CONCLUSION**

- 5.1 The Better Community Engagement Steering Group has been meeting and developing the programme and the group is about to officially launch and select local projects. The Community Engagement Group is asked to note the progress**

Author of Report: Ian Todd, Community Support Unit Manager  
Background Papers:  
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