

REPORT TO: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT GROUP ON 3 JULY 2008

SUBJECT: ROLE AND REMIT

BY: CHIEF EXECUTIVE THE MORAY COUNCIL

1. REASON FOR REPORT

1.1 To consider the role and remit for the Community Engagement Group.

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 It is recommended that the Community Engagement Group agrees its role and remit.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 At its last meeting on 13th March 2008 the Community Planning Steering Group agreed to the revised structures of Community Planning in Moray. This included the establishment of a Community Planning Board to replace the Steering Group and a Community Engagement Strategic group to sit alongside the Board.

3.2 Accompanying guidance to the Local Government Scotland Act 2003 identified one of the two main aims of community planning as: " Making sure people and communities are genuinely engaged in the decisions made on public services, which affect them." A key principal underpinning community planning should be "the ability of Community Planning to improve the connection between national priorities and those at regional, local and neighbourhood levels."

3.3 The Community Planning Partnership has already adopted the National Standards for Community Engagement. (**See appendix 1**) which sets out 10 statements of commitment that can be used to develop and support better working relationships between communities and agencies delivering public services.

3.4 It is proposed that the role and remit of the Community Engagement Group should be as follows:

3.4.1 Role

- The role of this group is to strengthen the relationship with the community, theme groups partners and the Partnership.
- The group will improve links between strategic theme groups, area committees/area forums, Community Councils and other forums and method of engagement. (Citizens Panel, Moray Equality Forum, Tenants Forums, Service User Groups etc)

- The group will be a focus for communication and engagement and provide an overview of the effectiveness of engagement and responsiveness.
- This group will have an overview of the entire Single Outcome Agreement. The Community Engagement group will also have a key role in ensuring that all interest groups have an opportunity to influence the development of the SOA and in particular the preparation of the 2009-2010 Single Outcome Agreement

3.4.2 Remit

- Co-ordinating consultation and engagement with local communities and service users between partners themes and the partnership.
- Collating local information from community engagement to improve services to inform community-planning activity.
- Providing feedback to the local community, theme groups and Partners on the impact the Partnership has had on service users.
- Ensuring that the development of the strategic assessments for the Single Outcome Agreement is fully informed by the views of local communities and users.
- Contributing the views of the community to the development of Outcomes and actions in the Single Outcome Agreement
- Raising community concerns and support community engagement at a more local level.
- Ensuring that the Partnership is visible and accountable to the community about what is being done to address their concerns.
- Ensuring the Partnership engages with, involves and regularly offers feedback to the community to increase public confidence and reassurance.

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SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

(a) Community Plan / Theme Plans / Partners Plans

The Community Engagement Group is a key element of the strategic management of the Community plan and will have an overview of all theme groups. It will provide community and user input to the work and planning of services through the Partnership and that of the partners.

(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. This group will contribute to National Outcome 15 contained in the Single Outcome Agreement, which is that “our public services are high quality, continually improving, efficient and responsive to local people’s needs.

(c) Resources (financial, staffing and risks)

The resources for implementing the community engagement process across the Partnership will be addressed through the work of the theme groups. If effective community engagement does not take place the risk of providing services without fully identifying or understanding community or service users needs could lead to inefficient delivery of services.

(d) Consultations

The Community Planning Partnership at the meeting of the Steering Group agreed the Community Planning Structure, which included the establishment of the Community Engagement Group.

5. CONCLUSION

5.1 The effective operation of the Community Planning Partnership requires that the community of Moray are effectively engaged and involved in the planning and delivery of services that affect them. The group is asked to agree a role and remit for the Community Engagement Group.

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Background Papers:

Ref:

Appendix 1

Statement of National Standards for Community Engagement

1. INVOLVEMENT: we will identify and involve the people and organisations that have an interest in the focus of the engagement.

2. SUPPORT: we will identify and overcome any barriers to involvement.

3. PLANNING: we will gather evidence of the needs and available resources and use this evidence to agree the purpose, scope and timescale of the engagement and the actions to be taken.

4. METHODS: we will agree and use methods of engagement that are fit for purpose

5. WORKING TOGETHER: We will agree and use clear procedures that enable the participants to work with one another effectively and efficiently.

6. SHARING INFORMATION: we will ensure that necessary information is communicated between the participants.

7. WORKING WITH OTHERS: we will work effectively with others with an interest in the engagement.

8. IMPROVEMENT: we will develop actively the skills, knowledge and confidence of all the participants.

9. FEEDBACK: we will feed back the results of the engagement to the wider community and agencies affected.

10. MONITORING AND EVALUATION: we will monitor and evaluate whether the engagement achieves its purposes and meets the national standards for community engagement.