

**REPORT TO: COMMUNITY PLANING BOARD ON 27 MAY 2010**

**SUBJECT: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

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

**1. REASON FOR REPORT**

- 1.1 To inform the board of a Community Engagement Seminar to be held on 29 June 2010 and to update members of the Community Planning Board on the use, by partners and stakeholders of the Moray Better Community Engagement (BCE) Demonstration Project, of the community engagement data base recording tool, VOICE (Visioning Outcomes In Community Engagement).

**2 RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 That the Community Planning Board supports the community engagement seminar to be held on 29 June 2010 and also endorse the use of VOICE (Visioning Outcomes In Community Engagement) and considers extending the use of VOICE across the partnership.**

**3 BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 At the Community Engagement Group meeting held on 14 May 2010 it was agreed to support the proposal to hold a Community Engagement Seminar to assist in the development of the Community Engagement Framework and that a report should be presented to the Board encouraging participation. It was seen as essential that the Community Engagement Group and the Board gave its full support to this event and that the widest partnership attendance was crucial and that effort should be put into ensuring that senior management and representatives attend.
- 3.2 The event would focus on identifying what steps needed to be taken to allow the Partnership to implement the Community Engagement Framework as agreed by the Community Engagement Group. The survey questions would form the basis of the event and that information would inform a Community Engagement Strategy.
- 3.3 The event will be held on 29 June 2010 from 9.30am till 4.30pm at Spynie Dental Centre, Elgin.
- 3.4 It was also agreed at the Community Engagement Group meeting on 13 May 2010 that a report be submitted to the board on the use of

VOICE (Visioning Outcomes In Community Engagement) asking the Board to consider extending the use of VOICE across the Partnership.

- 3.5 VOICE is a database planning and recording tool designed to assist individuals and organisations to design and deliver effective community engagement. VOICE enables all users to have a common system for analysing, planning, monitoring, evaluating and recording that provides common protocols, definition of terms and understanding of different types and purposes of engagement. It can be used to support a range of participation from overall area regeneration to specific concerns of users of particular services. It is designed to be relevant both for individual services and for integrated, cross disciplinary community planning.
- 3.6 In Moray since July 2009, a Steering Group has been formed and meeting regularly as a result of a successful bid for Moray to become one of the 10 local demonstration projects set up by the Scottish Government to pilot the development of a national toolkit that will compliment the Better Community Engagement Framework.
- 3.7 The Better Community Engagement Pilot in Moray has 29 groups and community based organisations currently committed and involved in the development of the local pilot projects in Moray which cover a diverse range of planned engagement activity. It is anticipated that this number will increase over the coming months.
- 3.8 By December 2010 all those associated with the local pilot projects should be proficient in the use of VOICE. Community Planning Partner agency staff and community based members who are directly active in the development of the local pilot projects could, with additional support, play a lead role in developing the use of VOICE within their own agencies, community based organisations and communities. This would allow for a bottom up approach that would complement the strategic aspirations of the Community Planning Partnership management.
- 3.9 It is planned that the VOICE tool will be available as an online tool by early next year which opens the potential for recording evaluation and consultations and ensuring that these meet the National Standards for Community Engagement.

#### **4. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS**

##### **(a) Outcome Agreement**

These initiatives 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 Council and its Community Planning Partners have a statutory duty under Section 15(2) of the Local Government Act in Scotland (2003) to make provision for consulting with the public over the planning and provision of services.

**(c) Resources (Financial, Risks, Staffing and Property)**

Any costs for the Community Engagement Seminar event can be met from existing Partners budgets. Staff from across the Partnership will be involved in organising and facilitating the event. Transition Town Forres will supply the QWIZDOM tool and NHS Grampian will provide the venue. There are no immediate costs arising from expanding the use of VOICE although some staff time for training may be incurred in the future.

**(d) Consultations**

The Community Engagement Group were consulted on both issues at their meeting on 13 May 2010

**5. CONCLUSION**

**A seminar is being held on 29 June 2010 on developing the Community Engagement Framework. Partners are encouraged to commit to attend and that the Community Planning Board considers extending the use of VOICE across the partnership.**

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Background Papers:

Ref: