

REPORT TO: COMMUNITY PLANNING BOARD ON 16 SEPTEMBER 2010

SUBJECT: CITIZENS PANEL & PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING

BY: CORPORATE POLICY UNIT MANAGER

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 The Community Planning Board is asked to note that consultants for the Citizens Panel and the Participatory Budgeting project have now been appointed.
- 1.2 In addition the Board is asked to note that a presentation on the development of the Participatory Budgeting project will be given at the meeting.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 **The Community Planning Board is asked to note the both the Citizens Panel and Participatory Budgeting projects have moved into the implementation phase as the consultants have now been appointed.**
- 2.2 **A short presentation on the participatory budgeting project will be given at the meeting,**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Both of these consultative mechanisms have now completed the tendering process and the consultants appointed: Craigforth for Citizens' Panel and Delib for Participatory Budgeting (PB) project. A Small working group will be established to take these projects forward.
- 3.2 For the Panel, the first task of the consultant is to refresh the panel. The Editorial Board (working group) will need to set the forward survey programme and direct the refreshment of the panel. For the survey focus, it is suggested that generally the surveys should work around priorities for partners in relation to budgets and setting priorities for the SOA based around the strategic assessments for each theme. The aim will be to refresh the panel during Sept-Oct with a possible survey ready for Nov-Dec.
- 3.3 The PB project requires the defining of budget categories in detail with the consequences for increases or decreases in budgets. The layout of the website will be discussed during the presentation at the meeting. A brief description of the project is contained in the appendix. **(Appendix).**

- 3.4 Over the next few months considerable development work has to go into each of these projects but some of the areas overlap. Since they are consultative mechanism commissioned by the Board they should be used to contribute to setting priorities for the Community Planning Partnership, partners and SOA. There is scope though within each of the contracts to allow separate use by partners for particular consultations.

4. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

- (a) Single Outcome Agreement/ Service Improvement Plan**
Consultation with stakeholders is an important element of community planning. The participatory budgeting could offer opportunities to expand the involvement of the community into community planning to provide the mechanism to consult with a representative sample of the Moray population
- (b) Policy and Legal**
Best Value legislation requires the Council to consult with its stakeholders. The Scottish Government is moving towards participatory budgeting for community planning partnership and has developed a pilot programme to assist 3-5 partnerships to develop the mechanisms to take this project forward.
- (c) Financial implications**
The funding for both of these projects is provided by partner contributions to the overall Community Planning budget which was agreed by the Community Planning Board in August 2009.
- (d) Risk Implications**
There is a risk with the participatory budgeting project as this is a new development which has not been carried out in Scotland before. However the project is based on website developments carried out in England and Germany. In addition the risk is being shared with the Scottish Government who is providing some funding towards the project.
- (e) Staffing Implications**
Staffing implications to develop the project are being managed within the partnership through the working group.
- (f) Property**
None
- (g) Equalities**
Equalities will be considered as part of the implementation of the projects and each will ensure that the consultative mechanisms address any equalities issues.

(h) Consultations

Consultations have taken place with the community planning statutory partners to gain commitment to providing budget information for the participatory budgeting project. The Board have nominated the representatives for the working group.

5.0 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 The Citizens Panel and Participatory Budgeting projects have moved into the implementation phase. A presentation on the participatory budgeting project will be given at the meeting to show the general layout of the website. A working group has been established to steer these two projects.**

Author of Report:

Background Papers:

Ref: