

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

CORPORATE BUSINESS SCRUTINY - 29 NOVEMBER 2011

REPORT BY COUNCILLOR M WOOD, CHAIRMAN OF THE
COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT TASK AND FINISH
GROUP

COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

WARD(S) AFFECTED: ALL

Purpose/Summary of Report

- The Community and Public Engagement Task and Finish Group reconvened on 18 October 2011 to review progress on the key recommendations agreed by Corporate Business Scrutiny (CBS) Committee on 22 March 2011, as amended and approved by Executive on 24 May 2011. This report updates the CBS Committee on progress and amendments.

<u>RECOMMENDATION FOR DECISION BY CORPORATE BUSINESS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE that:</u>
Members review progress made on the original action plan and amendments as set out in Essential Reference paper B.

1.0 Background

1.1 Community and Public Engagement Task and Finish group was set up by Corporate Business Scrutiny Committee in August 2010. The purpose of the group was to review the current methods used by the Council to engage with the community and the public and recommend a sustainable, cost effective framework/strategy for Community and Public engagement for the District of East Hertfordshire.

1.2 The group met eight times between October 2010 and February 2011 with a final report and recommendations to CBS Committee in March 2011. Following the meeting and as requested by CBS

Committee all proposals were presented to the Executive for discussion and its agreement. The Executive met and discussed the report on 24 May 2011 and its response is attached in Essential Reference Paper B. The task group reconvened on 18 October 2011 to review progress.

2.0 Report

2.1 A number of recommendations made to CBS Committee and agreed by the Executive have been successfully delivered. Other recommendations are still being developed. The key achievements are:

- The Council's online Events Calendar is up and running.
- Members training is being actively pursued through consultation with Members on their training/development needs and overseen by the Member Development Charter Group. A training event on an "Introduction to Community Leadership" was held recently on 8 September 2011 for Members. Others will be scheduled over the coming months as deemed necessary by the Group.
- New lapel badges have been given to all Members.
- Business cards and laminated A4 information sheets are being progressed through Democratic Services and will be provided as a matter of priority.
- Work with CVS for Broxbourne and East Herts is ongoing to ensure engagement with voluntary groups and organisations continues to be effective and with positive outcomes.

2.2 Each of the recommendations made to the Executive following the Community and Public Engagement Task and Finish Group has been updated in Essential Reference Paper B.

2.3 The Task and Finish group has subsequently reconsidered recommendation 3 and would like to strengthen the wording. The group would like to amend the statement to read 'Councillors would be expected to work closely with their communities'.

3.0 Implications/Consultations

3.1 Information on any corporate issues and consultation associated with this report can be found within **Essential Reference Paper 'A'**.

Background Papers

As available from the Scrutiny Officer on request

Contact Member: Councillor M Wood (Chairman of task and finish group)

Contact Officer: Will O'Neil, Head of Community Planning Extn 1594

Report Author: Mekhola Ray, Community Projects Team Leader

ESSENTIAL REFERENCE PAPER 'A'

<p>Contribution to the Council's Corporate Priorities/ Objectives <i>(delete as appropriate):</i></p>	<p>Promoting prosperity and well-being; providing access and opportunities <i>Enhance the quality of life, health and wellbeing of individuals, families and communities, particularly those who are vulnerable.</i></p> <p>Fit for purpose, services fit for you <i>Deliver customer focused services by maintaining and developing a well managed and publicly accountable organisation.</i></p> <p>Pride in East Herts <i>Improving standards of the built neighbourhood and environmental management in our towns and villages.</i></p> <p>Shaping now, shaping the future <i>Safeguard and enhance our unique mix of rural and urban communities, ensuring sustainable, economic and social opportunities including the continuation of effective development control and other measures.</i></p> <p>Leading the way, working together <i>Deliver responsible community leadership that engages with our partners and the public.</i></p>
<p>Consultation:</p>	<p>Addressed in the report</p>
<p>Legal:</p>	<p>The implication of the Public sector Duty and the Public Sector Equality Duty has been considered in the report</p>
<p>Financial:</p>	<p>All recommendations are implemented within the resources agreed at budget setting on February 2011.</p>
<p>Human Resource:</p>	<p>Within existing staffing</p>
<p>Risk Management:</p>	<p>N/A</p>