

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT TASK AND FINISH GROUP

1. Purpose/Objectives of the Review

- To review the Council's engagement activities, including Neighbourhood Management.
- To review how community engagement could be improved and what Groups the Council should be engaging with, in particular how it should engage with new and difficult to reach communities who are not currently represented.

2. Outcomes Required

- To recommend mechanisms, practice and evaluation that enables all local people and Community Groups to have a voice.
- To produce an outline and recommend the preparation of a Community Engagement Strategy.
- To recommend methods to manage the information collected as a result of the improvement in engagement, in order that it informs policy-making, service delivery and design.

3. Information Required

- An analysis of the Council's current method of engagement, including successes and failures of engaging with the community.
- A synopsis of all information currently available.
- Verbal evidence from employees, Borough and County Councillors.
- Written evidence from community organisations and groups.
- Best practice Councils.

4. Format of Information

- Officer reports/presentations
- Maps showing how areas are currently geographically split
- Baseline data
- Best practice external to Northampton
- Witness interviews/evidence
- Portfolio Holder evidence

5. Methods Used to Gather Information

- Minutes of the meetings

- Desktop research
- Examples of best practice
- Witness Interviews/evidence: -
 - Community and Councillor Co-Chairs of the Community Forums
 - Residents' Associations
 - Parish Councils
 - Chair of Northampton Tenants and Council Together (NTACT)
 - Mrs B Mennell, member of NTACT
 - Faith Leaders
 - Community Leaders
 - NBC and NCC Councillors
 - T Hall, Corporate Manager, NBC
 - L Ambrose, Area Partnerships and Forums Co-Ordinator, NBC
 - P Gadhia, NCC
 - J Tinker, Strategic Neighbourhood Manager, NCC

6. Co-Options to the Review Committee

None for this review. However all Task and Finish Groups should consider the provision of an external advisor.

7. Evidence gathering Timetable

July – September 2007

30 July	Scoping the review
13 and 23 August	Evidence gathering
4 September	Finalise Chair's report

8. Responsible Officers

Lead Officers	Simone Wade
Co-ordinator	Tracy Tiff

9. Resources and Budget

Simone Wade, Policy and Governance Manager, and Thomas Hall, Corporate Manager, to provide support and advice.

10 Final report presented by:

Completed by September 2007. Presented by the Chair of the Task and Finish Group to Overview and Scrutiny Committee 1 and then to Cabinet.

11 Monitoring procedure:

To review the impact of the report after six months (March 2008).