
Title: Update Report on Local Area Community Planning Groups

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1** This report summarises progress which Local Area Community Planning Groups are making in developing their Action Plans and in developing effective Community Engagement mechanisms as they progress to becoming key partnership groups for areas to plan and monitor aims and objectives for local communities.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1** That the Management Committee note the progress which the Local Area Community Planning Groups are making.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1** Local Area Community Planning Groups made generally good starts in establishing themselves, focussing on regular meeting cycles and on ensuring that all relevant partners attend meetings and events.
- 3.2** Work is continuing in all areas in identifying key local strategic partnerships who need to be aligned with the LACPG, and who are frequently the deliverers of key local outcomes contained in the developing LACPG plans. Initial progress reports on this work were presented to the March meeting cycles, with groups agreeing that this will require to be continually updated. However, the initial agreements made at the March meetings mean that local groups can now identify those core partnerships whom they feel need to be in attendance at group meetings, and those who can simply be asked to update the group by the agreed Highlight and Exception reporting mechanism. In progressing this work some rationalisation of group attendance and meeting duplication has been carried out.
- 3.3** Groups have been further reminded about the Consultation Diary process, and the benefits for groups and communities to make effective use of this. It remains to be seen how significant the uptake in it's use will be.
- 3.4** The Local Groups made progress at the March meetings with refining their Local Area Community Plans, and work is now underway to develop amended Scorecards, with a view to having both documents ready for final consideration at the May meeting cycle.

- 3.5** Although there has been generally steady progress with the development of structures, processes and levels of understanding around the LACPG's, this has not been consistent across all four areas, and a significant number of concerns about the effectiveness of the groups have been expressed at the last two meeting rounds. Such concerns include lack of clarity or purpose for the groups, lack of commitment to attendance by Core Partners and key community groups, and, significantly, about duplication in some areas of existing structures which are carrying out local community planning in an effective and recognised way, and have been doing so for some considerable time. The opportunity for partners and community groups and representatives to feed such concerns into the current Self Assessment of Community Planning has been widely welcomed, and the outcome of this process should enable such concerns to be addressed, thereby ensuring improved focus and clarity of purpose for those groups who see limitations in the current arrangements.
- 3.6** All of the Local groups will have been provided with the opportunity for to attend Community Engagement and Development training by the end of March, which will be a key step forward for groups in terms of developing their community engagement role.

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1** Local Area Community Planning Groups have made good progress in developing their role in Community Engagement and in monitoring progress in delivery of local service priorities. Updated Action Plans and accompanying Scorecards will be considered and adopted at the May meeting cycle. Concerns being raised about the purpose and effectiveness of the groups will be progressed both by provision of the Community Development and Engagement training currently being delivered, and, significantly, the collation and actioning of issues raised through the current process of Self Assessment of Community Planning.

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