

Report

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Report to:	Executive Committee
Date of Meeting:	6 July 2011
Report by:	Executive Director (Corporate Resources)

Subject:	Community Engagement Framework
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ present the refreshed Community Engagement Framework

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Executive Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that the use of the refreshed Community Engagement Framework and the roll out of its use to Community Planning Partners be noted.

3. Background

3.1. The original Community Engagement Framework was published in November 2004 by the Community Planning Partnership. This Framework was designed as a tool to be used by the Community Planning Partners when carrying out community engagement activity. South Lanarkshire Council, as one of the Community Planning Partners, implemented the Framework at that time.

3.2. The Best Value Audit of the Council and Community Planning Partnership published on 19 February 2009, found that, although the Council had evidence of undertaking a lot of quality Community Engagement, there was limited co-ordination of this activity. As a result of this, a Community Engagement Steering Group was established. One of the Group's first tasks was to refresh the existing Community Engagement Framework.

4. Refresh of Community Engagement Framework

4.1. The refresh of the Community Engagement Framework has taken into account advances in Community Engagement including the 10 standards of Community Engagement developed by the Scottish Community Development Centre on behalf of the Scottish Government. In addition, VOICE (Visioning Outcomes in Community Engagement) which is an electronic toolkit designed to assist with the "plan, do and review" of Community Engagement activity, has been implemented by the partners.

4.2. The revised framework includes examples and quotes of where engagement activity has made a difference. The revised Framework includes the following sections:-

- ◆ What is meant by Community Engagement?
- ◆ The benefits of Community Engagement
- ◆ National Standards for Community Engagement
- ◆ How to engage – a range of tools and techniques

- ◆ Useful contacts
- ◆ Appendices
- ◆ Engaging seldom heard
- ◆ Analysing and interpreting the findings of Engagement activity
- ◆ VOICE toolkit (Community engagement toolkit)

4.3. The Community Planning Partnership approved the revised Framework at its meeting on 2 March 2011.

5. Rollout

5.1. The Community Engagement Framework has been distributed to all Community Planning Partners and members of the Community Engagement Co-ordination Group and the roll out will be publicised on the Council Intranet and Internet, and on the South Lanarkshire Community Planning Partnership website in August 2011.

6. Monitoring and Evaluating

6.1. The Best Value assessment matrix on Community Engagement asks:-

“Is a commitment to community engagement shown in plans and strategies?”.

“Is there effective monitoring, challenge and scrutiny of achieving the engagement of communities?”.

The effectiveness of the Framework will be assessed through evidence that communities have influenced and shaped plans, and regular feedback from partners and communities on the effectiveness of the Council’s community engagement approaches. A consultation timetable will be developed to ensure feedback from the community on the Council’s engagement strategy is an integral part of each project.

6.2. The Council's Community Engagement Co-ordination Group will review the framework formally every two years and informally as the need arises.

7. Employee Implications

7.1. Training will be provided in the use of the web based Voice toolkit. Dates for training are currently being organised by Regeneration Services (Enterprise Resources). Awareness raising of the Community Engagement Framework within the Council will take place as appropriate.

8. Financial Implications

8.1. The cost of publication will be met from existing resources. VOICE is available as a web based tool free of charge.

9. Other Implications

9.1. A formal review timetable has been introduced, with reviews of the framework now taking place routinely every two years.

9.2. There is a moderate risk, if the revised framework is not introduced, that Community Engagement will not be effectively co-ordinated and managed. However the introduction of the framework and in particular the monitoring arrangements will mitigate this risk.

9.3. The framework will improve the sustainability of South Lanarkshire Community Planning Partners by using resources more effectively by sharing best practice and

through opportunities to use community engagement activity to address more than one outcome.

10. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

10.1. Consultation has been undertaken with the following:

- ◆ Community Planning Partners
- ◆ Community Engagement Co-ordination Group
- ◆ Equality and Diversity Advisor
- ◆ Other relevant officers

10.2. This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a change to an existing policy, function or strategy and, therefore, no impact assessment is required.

Robert McIlwain
Executive Director (Corporate Resources)

11 May 2011

Link(s) to Council Objectives/Improvement Themes/Values

- Fair and open
- People focused
- Working with and respecting others
- Accountable, effective and efficient
- Tackling disadvantage and deprivation

Previous References

Corporate Management Team Report: Review of Community Engagement Activity across South Lanarkshire Council presented 17 December 2009

List of Background Papers

Community Engagement Framework

Contact for Further Information

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

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