

**REPORT TO:** SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

**DATE:** 14 MARCH 2017

**TITLE:** REVIEW OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT - FINAL REPORT

**LEAD OFFICER(S):** JANE GREER, HEAD OF COMMUNITY WELLBEING (01279) 446406

**CONTRIBUTING OFFICER(S):** SIMON PIPE, CUSTOMER AND MEDIA SERVICES MANAGER (01279) 446888

**RECOMMENDED** that the Scrutiny Committee:

- A** Considers the toolkit developed by the Campaign Company (TCC) and the Local Government Association (LGA) attached to this report as Appendix A.
- B** Recommend to Cabinet that the toolkit, as part of the New Conversations project, is referred to the Overview Working Group with a view to developing a new Community Engagement Strategy.

## **BACKGROUND**

1. As part of the LGA peer review that was carried out in November 2014, there was a request to look at the way the community engagement process was carried out within the Council. The current Community Engagement Strategy expired in March 2016.
2. Although some initial exploratory work was undertaken to refresh the Strategy in 2015, this was superseded by an offer from the LGA to be part of a project that they were running with TCC.
3. This work started in early 2016 and the aim of the project was to produce a best practice and practical guide to consultation and engagement for local authorities.
4. An update on the progress of the work was given to the Scrutiny Committee on 31 January 2017 by Will Heywood from TCC, prior to the national project titled New Conversations being launched on Monday 27 February 2017.

## **ISSUES/PROPOSALS**

5. A presentation on the findings is to be presented to the Committee by Will Heywood. It recommends a series of models for consideration for inclusion in a future community engagement strategy.

6. The project itself has also delivered an in depth toolkit that can be used in relation to community engagement (Appendix A).

## **CONCLUSION**

7. To ensure that a more strategic approach is adopted in relation to community engagement, a new Community Engagement strategy is required that builds on the work already undertaken and develops a deliverable strategy and associated action plan.

## **IMPLICATIONS**

### **Place (includes Sustainability)**

Contained within the report and associated attachments

Author: **Graeme Bloomer, Head of Place**

### **Finance (Includes ICT)**

There are no identified financial implications at this stage although any form of community engagement is likely to require some level of financial resource.

Author: **Simon Freeman, Head of Finance**

### **Housing**

Any outcomes from the review will need to align to the housing regulatory role of effective Tenant and Leaseholder engagement in order that a “joined-up” approach can be achieved with resources targeted at council priorities

Author: **Andrew Murray, Head of Housing**

### **Community Wellbeing (includes Equalities and Social Inclusion)**

Included within report.

Author: **Jane Greer, Head of Community Wellbeing**

### **Governance (includes HR)**

There are no legal implications at this stage. Any form consultations will though need to ensure appropriate data security is adhered to.

Author: **Brian Keane, Head of Governance**

### **Background Papers**

New Conversations: LGA guide to engagement.

[http://www.local.gov.uk/web/guest/publications/-/journal\\_content/56/10180/8287322/PUBLICATION](http://www.local.gov.uk/web/guest/publications/-/journal_content/56/10180/8287322/PUBLICATION)

## **Glossary of terms/abbreviations used**

LGA – Local Government Association

TCC – The Campaign Company

## **Appendices**

Appendix A – Harlow LGA Toolkit