

REPORT TO: COMMUNITY PLANNING BOARD 7th JULY 2011

SUBJECT: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PRIORITISED ACTION PLAN

BY: THE MORAY COUNCIL, COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

1. REASON FOR REPORT

1.1 The Community Planning Board is asked to approve the prioritised plan and support the implementation of the Community Engagement Strategy

2 RECOMMENDATION

2.1 **The Community Planning Board is asked to approve the prioritised plan and support the implementation of the Community Engagement Strategy.**

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 At the meeting of the Community Planning Board 31 March 2011, it was requested the Community Engagement Group report back to the Board on their action plan and required resources, measurements, potential actions and timescales.

3.2 At the meeting of the Community Engagement Group on 19 May 2011, the group agreed to summarise the action plan into three key priorities that will deliver the majority of actions when fully implemented.

3.3. The three key priorities are:

- (i) Develop a Community Engagement Directory
- (ii) Hold two Community Engagement seminars per year
- (iii) Develop a pilot project in South Lesmurdie as highlighted in the Better Community Engagement (BCE) project report.

3.4 In concentrating on the three priorities, the strategic direction of community engagement within the partnership will focus on the themes identified in the community engagement framework namely:

- Changing the way organisations work and are structured to make them responsive to communities
- How agencies and communities work together to identify priority outcomes and address them
- Partners as community leaders, helping communities and agencies work together

3.5 Details of resources and costs to deliver this strategy in full will follow after the CEG next meet on 25 August. It is expected that most of the work to carry out

the actions can be managed within current arrangements and the improvements will be delivered through the three key priorities above.

3.6 Progress so far on the three key actions are:

- (i) Priority 1: Develop a Community Engagement Directory – responsibility of project development officer, The Moray Council.
 - Section One: National level and local level strategies and standards (by end of August, 2011). *Already in draft*
 - Section Two: The mode(s) of operation employed by partners and community groups (by end of October, 2011). *Currently being collated*
 - Section Three: Evidence Based Improvements, (by end March 2012).

- (ii) Priority 2: Hold two community engagement seminars per year – responsibility of CEG.
 - Two provisional dates set for 27 October 2011 and 15 March 2012

- (iii) Priority 3: Develop a pilot project in South Lesmurdie – responsibility of CEG and possibly others.
 - This is awaiting a scope before timescales and resources can be set. The Corporate Director for Education and Social Care also has an interest in this area.

4. **SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS**

(a) Single Outcome Agreement

Improvements to community engagement is integral to National Outcome 11, "we have strong resilient communities, where people take responsibility for their own actions and how they affect others" and to National Outcome 15; "our public services are high quality, continually improving, efficient and responsive to local people's needs".

(b) Policy and Legal

The Local Government Scotland Act 2003 requires that the partnership engage with community bodies as part of the community planning process. The council must meet the requirements of the Scottish Government to comply with the Concordat. The Moray Council's Strategy on Consultation and Community Engagement commits the Council to develop its community engagement in line with the National Standards for Community Engagement.

(c) Financial Implications

Financial implications arising from the action plan will be identified by the Community Engagement Group as the actions develop and reported back to the Community Planning Board as required.

(d) Risk Implications

The risk of not having proper community engagement across the partnership could mean that services may not be targeted efficiently and community relations harmed.

(e) Staffing Implications

It is important that efficient use of staffing is maintained for the success of this strategy.

(f) Property

There are no property implications arising from this report.

(g) Equalities

An equalities impact assessment has been carried out on the strategy.

(h) Consultations

No further consultations are required at this stage

5.0 CONCLUSION

5.1 The Community Engagement Group have identified three key priorities to progress. The actions will be reported back to the Board on a regular basis.

Author of Report: John Ferguson

Background Papers:

Ref: