

Meeting: Better Places Partnership Board

Date: 16 April 2009

Report Title: Haringey's First Community Engagement Framework

Report of: Sharon Kemp, Assistant Chief Executive, PPP&C, Haringey Council

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to:

- Inform the Better Places Partnership Board of the development of Haringey's first Community Engagement Framework
- Ask Board members to respond to the Community Engagement Framework consultation

Summary

On 3 December 2008 the HSP's Performance Management Group (PMG) agreed that Haringey Strategic Partnership would develop a framework to co-ordinate and strengthen community engagement work, and that a multi-agency group would be formed to take forward this work.

The Community Engagement Framework (CEF) will reaffirm the commitment of the HSP to community engagement and promote a shared understanding of associated principles. It will also identify and prioritise areas which need further development.

The HSP on 26 February 2009 received:

- an update on the development of the CEF
- an update on the work of the multi-agency project group that has been established to develop the CEF
- the draft CEF consultation document

The HSP made suggestions to amend the CEF and agreed that, following those amendments, the CEF could go out for public consultation.

The consultation document is now available online at:

<http://www.haringey.gov.uk/framework>

The consultation document and questionnaire are also attached as an appendix to this report.

Better Places Partnership Board members are asked to consider the draft CEF, particularly the consultation questions, and provide comments and suggestions within the consultation deadline of **21 April 2009**.

Board members are also asked to circulate the draft CEF within their organisations and to their community contacts for comment by 21 April 2009.

Legal/Financial Implications

The new statutory duty to involve is not well defined legally and there is considerable discretion in how to implement this in accordance with Guidance. This strategic framework should help us to engage a wide variety of community groups in the early formulation of local decisions and policy-making thus fulfilling the underlying purpose of the new duty.

There are no direct financial implications immediately arising from the development a Community Engagement Framework in Haringey. The Action Plan arising from the CEF, when developed, may have resource implications needing detailed consideration at that stage.

Recommendations

That the Better Places Partnership Board considers the CEF consultation document, particularly the consultation questions, and provides comments and suggestions

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Background Information

The Haringey Strategic Partnership (HSP) is currently developing a Community Engagement Framework (CEF). The Framework will be the key reference point for community engagement by HSP organisations. It will set out the vision and principles for community engagement by HSP organisations in Haringey. The draft aim of the CEF is to enable the HSP:

‘To engage with local communities and empower them to shape policies, strategies and services that affect their lives.’

There are many reasons for developing a CEF. These include:

1. Empowering people to define and shape their own community
2. Responsive services tailored to meet people’s needs
3. Better informed citizens
4. Better monitoring and measuring of performance
5. Encouraging democratic involvement
6. Building responsible citizenship
7. Improving relationships between partner agencies and the public
8. Building capacity of people to take part in engagement activities
9. Meeting our statutory obligations

The Framework builds on our responsibilities contained within the Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS), which provides the overarching direction for the borough. The principles of this Framework support **all** of the SCS outcomes, and in particular:

- **People at the heart of change**
- **Be people and customer focused**

Haringey’s Local Area Agreement also clearly demonstrates the HSP’s commitment to community engagement. It contains the following targets, which will allow us to measure and monitor this Framework:

- NI1: Percentage of people who believe people from different backgrounds get on well together in their local area
- NI4: Percentage of people who feel that they can influence decisions in their locality
- NI 6: Participation in regular volunteering
- NI 7: Environment for a thriving third sector
- NI140: Fair treatment by local services - proxy to what extent does your local council treat all types of people fairly

Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA)

The Audit Commission will be testing the level and quality of public engagement and empowerment as part of the CAA assessment process. We will be assessed to see how well vulnerable and marginalised groups are involved in local decision making. One of the three key CAA questions will look at the partnership’s understanding of local needs and aspirations and ensure that this knowledge has been used in the development of local priorities. The purpose of this is to ensure that there are clear priorities,

based on understanding of need, and that there is a shared commitment to the achievement of these priorities.

Multi-agency project group

A multi-agency project group to develop the CEF was established in December 2008. Representation and involvement from partner agencies has been very strong.

The group has developed the aim, objectives, principles and scope of the CEF. The group has undertaken an initial mapping exercise of community engagement work across partner organisations, and will use this to inform the development of the CEF Action Plan.

Consultation process

The consultation process is planned to take place in three phases. An initial consultation process has already taken place to inform the development of the Community Engagement Framework. Details of this initial process are as follows:

Consultation phase 1:

- The first phase of community consultation took place between 19 January 2009 and 13 February 2009.

Consultation phase 2:

- The second phase of consultation will take place between early March and 21 April 2009
- The consultation document will be sent out to community and voluntary groups and will be available on the Haringey Council website.
- The questionnaire accompanying the document will ask for specific comments on the vision, definition and principles of the CEF.
- The CEF will also be discussed at the HSP thematic board and relevant sub board meetings and Haringey's Community Link Forum meeting.

Following the second consultation phase, the following will take place:

- Consultation responses will inform the final draft of the CEF.
- The CEF will be taken to the HSP for adoption on 27 April 2009.
- The final CEF document will be made available on partner websites
- The multi-agency group will continue to meet for a time-limited period in order to develop the CEF Action Plan and accompanying Equality Impact Assessment.

Consultation phase 3:

- The third phase of the consultation will take place later in the year and will focus on the Action Plan to be developed following agreement of the Framework.