

Report Title: **Scoping report for Scrutiny review: Engaging with Hard to Reach communities**

Report of: **Councillor Gideon Bull, Chair of Panel**

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Wards(s) affected: **All**

Report for: **[Key / Non-Key Decision]**

**1. Purpose of the report (That is, the decision required)**

1.1. That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee approve the scope and terms of reference as laid out in the accompanying report.

**2. Introduction by Cabinet Member (if necessary)**

2.1. N/A

**3. State link(s) with Council Plan Priorities and actions and /or other Strategies:**

3.1. This review links with the Sustainable Community Strategy Outcomes of:

- People at the heart of change
  - Promote community cohesion
- Be people and customer focused
  - Provide greater opportunity for civic engagement and participation

3.2. This review links with the Council Plan priority of “driving change, improving quality”.

- Engaging Citizens
- Support communities to influence and shape the quality of services in their

neighbourhoods

3.3. This review links with the following Local Area Agreements:

- NI 4 - % of people who feel that they can influence decisions in their locality
- NI140 – Fair treatment by local services

3.4. Priority stated in the CAA self assessment:

- Enhance community engagement and partnership working

#### **4. Recommendations**

4.1. That the scope and terms of reference be approved by the Committee

#### **5. Reason for recommendation(s)**

5.1. Reasons for the recommendations laid out in the main report are covered within the main body of the attached report.

#### **6. Other options considered**

6.1. N/A

#### **7. Summary**

7.1. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee commissioned a review into engaging with hard to reach communities as part of their 2009/10 work programme.

7.2. From a National perspective there is increased emphasis on ensuring that our communities are fully engaged and able to participate in the decisions made and the services provided to them in their local area.

7.3. This review aims to identify the groups which are deemed as hard to reach in Haringey, assess what organisations are doing to engage with these groups, what barriers to engagement exist and make recommendations to improve the engagement and involvement of these groups.

7.4. It is recognised that not all groups will be identified and that any in-depth research may need to focus on a few groups. In this case the review will consider whether the learning can be applied to other groups.

#### **8. Chief Financial Officer Comments**

8.1. The Chief Financial Officer has read the report and concurs that any costs associated with the review itself will be contained within the overview and scrutiny service.

8.2. Any financial implications arising from the recommendations of the final report will be

addressed in that final report.

## **9. Head of Legal Services Comments**

9.1. The Scrutiny Review will provide a valuable and reliable source of evidence that can then be fed into the Comprehensive Area Assessment and help to ensure that a wider range of the Council's residents have a greater opportunity to contribute to the Council's policies and objectives. Legal Services supports this initiative and the recommendation.

## **10. Head of Procurement Comments – [Required for Procurement Committee]**

10.1. N/A

## **11. Equalities & Community Cohesion Comments**

11.1. Haringey is an extremely diverse borough.

11.2. An example of factors of the Haringey population are as follows:

- Over 50% of our population overall, and three-quarters of our young people, have a non white British ethnic group.
- Almost 50% of residents born outside the UK are from Asia and Africa.
- The most prevalent countries for new national insurance registrations are Poland, Turkey, Italy, France, Australia, Hungary and Lithuania.
- Over half of the Haringey population is under 35 years of age.
- 11.3% of Haringey residents stated their religion as Muslim,
- 2.1% of residents stated their religion as Hindu,
- 20% of Haringey residents stated that they did not have a religion.
- 13.6% of households are lone parents.

11.3. The Community Engagement Framework Equalities Impact Assessment<sup>1</sup> identifies factors along the six equalities strand which may have an impact on engagement:

- Age – People not feeling like events are relevant to them or the media used does not reach them.
- Disability – Information may not be accessible if not produced in a range of formats.
- Ethnicity – Language barriers
- Religion – Content may not be considered appropriate within some religious groups.
- Sexuality – Engagement activities may not take place in locations accessed by the Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual and transgender communities.

<sup>1</sup> Community Engagement Framework, Haringey Strategic Partnership, 2009

- Gender – Women are more likely to have caring responsibilities and thereby be unable to participate.

11.4. Equalities and community cohesion are key strands to this review and will therefore run throughout the review and form a significant part of the final review report.

## **11 Consultation**

11.2 The review will seek the views of a range of stakeholders (as outlined in the main body of the report).

11.3 The review will also aim to speak to members of those groups identified as 'hard to reach' where possible.

11.4 When considering the terms of reference and scope of this report the main stakeholders as identified within the main body have been consulted.

## **12 Use of appendices /Tables and photographs**

N/A

## **13 Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985**

- Council Plan - Year 3, 2009-10, Haringey Council
- Sustainable Community Strategy, Haringey Strategic Partnership
- Haringey Community Engagement Framework, Haringey Strategic Partnership, 2009
- Use of Resources, Auditor Guidance, Audit Commission, June 2009
- World Class Commissioning Competencies, Department of Health, December 2007
- Strengthening Local Democracy, Department for Communities and Local Government, July 2009
- Real Involvement, Working with people to improve health services, Department of Health, 2008
- Creating Strong and Prosperous Communities, Statutory Guidance, Department for Communities and Local Government, July 2008
- Communities in Control: Real People Real Power, Department for Communities and Local Government, July 2008
- Haringey Borough Profile, [www.haringey.gov.uk](http://www.haringey.gov.uk)
- Mid-year Population estimates – 2008, Office of National Statistics August 2009
- 2001 Census, Office for National Statistics
- Haringey Local Area Agreement Refresh, 2009-2011, Haringey Strategic Partnership
- Community Engagement Framework, Haringey Strategic Partnership, 2009
- Community Engagement Framework Equalities Impact Assessment, Haringey Strategic Partnership, 2009

