## STRONG AND SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS MADE DURING 2012-2013

MEETING DATE / ITEM	RECOMMENDATION	REFERRED TO	RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS
25 July 2012			
The Community Engagement Strategy	The Committee recommends that the following be included in the Community Engagement Strategy:	Heather Darwin	The strategy will be updated to include these elements.
	Engagement and consultation with disability groups		
	2) Engagement and consultation with the Youth Council		
The Roles and Functions of the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Police and Crime Panel for Cambridgeshire	The Committee recommends that Peterborough has a member of the Strong and Supportive Scrutiny Committee on the Police and Crime Panel.	Adrian Chapman	Email received from Cllr Cereste to advise that he had already appointed the members for the Police and Crime Panel therefore was unable to take forward the recommendation.
Final Report of the Neighbourhood Committee Review Implementation Task and Finish Group	The committee recommends that the following recommendations made in section 5.1 of the report are agreed and monitored:  (i) To move away from general presentations at meetings that do not allow for interaction debate and challenge	Adrian Chapman	It was decided at the medium term financial budget meeting that Neighbourhood Committees would be disbanded.

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	(ii) Ensure that the agenda items are in the main, to enable decision making rather than for information only		
	(iii) Adopt a Scrutiny-style approach to key agenda items, where council officers and staff from partner organisations are called to provide evidence, information and advice to Neighbourhood Committee members and to present on key issues affecting the neighbourhood in a more appropriate manner		
	<ul> <li>(iv) Produce a communications and PR strategy that includes a detailed calendar of communications and PR activity that:</li> <li>Supports the overall objectives of Neighbourhood Committees</li> <li>Promotes each Neighbourhood Committee in each area in advance of the meeting</li> <li>Publicises the outcomes from each Neighbourhood Committee after each meeting</li> </ul>		
	(v) Organise and run an annual Peterborough Peterborough-wide Neighbourhoods conference at which:		

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ITEM			
	<ul> <li>The overall performance and progress made in the previous year is highlighted and discussed.</li> <li>Any barriers, issues and opportunities arising from the previous year are highlighted and discussed.</li> <li>Overall strategic and operational principles for the forthcoming year are identified, discussed and agreed.</li> </ul>		
	(vi) Alongside the Community Action Plans agree a performance plan for the year for the for each Neighbourhood Committee that sets out required performance across multiple domains (e.g. litter picks, grass cuts, meters of footpath replaced, £25k spend deadlines etc), and then monitor its performance at the monthly Neighbourhood Management meetings and the quarterly Neighbourhood Committee meetings. Performance data should be shared visually at each Neighbourhood Committee meeting.		
	(vi) Ensure that all Council Departmental Business Plans include commitments		

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	about how services will engage with and be shaped by Neighbourhood Committees and their Community Action Plans  The Committee recommends that the Neighbourhood Committee Implementation Task and Finish group be disbanded as the work of the group is now concluded.  The Committee recommends that an annual report be presented at the Strong and Supportive Communities Scrutiny Committee on the performance of Neighbourhood Committees.		
12 September 2012	<u> </u> 2		
Reducing Reoffending through Behaviour Change	The Committee recommends that Cambridgeshire Constabulary take a proactive stance to make representation against new alcohol licensing applications where there are reasonable grounds relating to alcohol issues in the area.	Gary Goose	This was brought to the attention of the Peterborough District Policing Commander on 20 September 2012.
Responsible Dog Ownership	The Committee recommends that the council be more proactive when dealing with reported cases of noise nuisance due to dogs being left alone all day.	Peter Gell	In the last financial year the Council received 144 complaints alleging statutory nuisance from dog barking of which a number were repeat complaints, or more than one resident complaining about the

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			same barking dog or dogs. Following a proactive approach in investigating these complaints, all but two were resolved informally by the Council through communications with both the complainant and the owner, or following mediation referrals. In the case of the two which required formal action, statutory noise abatement notices were served. A breach of a notice is a criminal offence; to date it has not been necessary following the serving of a notice to pursue the matter to court for breach of the notice.
Responsible Dog Ownership	The Committee recommends that the Council be more proactive in following up reported cases to the police regarding dangerous dogs.	Peter Gell	The Council has a statutory responsibility to provide a stray dog service, this being delivered through a contract with an external service provider Midland Environmental Contract Ltd. As part of this Service the contractor will respond to calls of stray dogs, picking them up and taking them to kennels. Providing the dog is not a prohibited breed it can be reunited with the owner on payment of a fee. The electronic chipping of dogs has made it easier to identify dog owners. If the owner does not take their dog back attempts are made to re-home it. On average Midland receive one call a week regarding the behaviour of dogs; there is a tendency for people to report every dog which appears more excited than they perceive it should be. A proportion of these reports also relate to stray dogs and consequently Midland will attempt to locate the dog and remove it from the streets, if the dog

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			meets the criteria to be classed as a 'dangerous dog' the Police are notified. To date it has not been necessary to report a dog to the police due to it being dangerous. If a report was made by the public to Midland of a dog that could be classified as a 'dangerous dog', but it wasn't a stray, they would liaise with the police, this again has not been necessary to date. Due to the expertise of the dog warden with regards to the behaviour of dogs he does during the course of his work provide advice and guidance to owners to promote responsible dog ownership. There has been a greater emphasis on this since the committee's recommendations. Cambridgeshire Police are the statutory body that takes legal proceedings against the owners of dangerous dogs, as well as action to permanently remove the threat itself where appropriate. The Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 defines what in law can be classified as dangerous. It does this by first of all prohibiting certain types of dog and secondly making the link between the behaviour of dogs, in particular dogs that are dangerously out of control. It is worth noting that the law seeks to protect the public from dogs, not other animals through this legislation. As a result of proactive meetings between the Council and the police during the year there is a good understanding of the scope of each body with regards to the handling of dog related matters.

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			Midland and the police are able to seek support and advice where required in relation to the handling of 'dangerous dogs'. Because of the understanding developed it has only been necessary for the Police to seek support from the Council via Midland once regarding a dangerous dog, this being to help identify a prohibited dog type.
16 January 2013			
Citizens Power Programme – Final Report of the Task and Finish Group	<ul> <li>The Committee recommends that Peterborough City Council when considering commissioning a similar programme to the Citizens Power Programme in the future should undertake following actions prior to committing to the programme:</li> <li>1. Conduct a full investigation into whether the proposed programme would be value for money.</li> <li>2. Appoint a project manager at the earliest stage to prepare a full business case and financial plan.</li> <li>3. Communicate key messages of the programme to all councillors to avoid unnecessary delays or misunderstanding over the outcomes and objectives of the initiative.</li> </ul>	Adrian Chapman	Cabinet considered the report and RESOLVED to: Endorse the final report of the review of the Citizen Power Peterborough programme conducted by the Strong and Supportive Communities Scrutiny Committee and to approve the recommendation in the report as below:  Should future programmes of any similarity be considered within the city that the appointment of a project manager at the earliest stage is essential. The role of that project manager should incorporate business and financial planning and the communication of the key messages of the programme to Councillors to avoid unnecessary delays or misunderstanding over the outcomes and objectives of the initiative.

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Peterborough Homes Allocations Policy	The Committee recommends to the Cabinet Member for Housing, Neighbourhoods and Planning that the household income level of £40,000 to allow a person to access the housing register is reconsidered as the Committee considers it to be too high for Peterborough households.  The Committee recommends to the Cabinet Member for Housing, Neighbourhoods and Planning that Section 9.9 of the Peterborough Homes - The Common Housing Register Allocations Policy which refers to Local Connection and in particular bullet point 3 be closely monitored to ensure that it is being implemented correctly.  9.9 Local Connection iii. The applicant or a member of their household has immediate family (parents, children, brothers, sisters and other family members if there is a particularly close relationship) who have lived in the district for at least the past 5 years,	Councillor Hiller	Councillor Hiller introduced the report at a Cabinet meeting on 25 February 2013 highlighting that the current arrangements for the housing list were unsustainable and that priorities would change to increase the ratings for ex-service personnel and those with a link to the area.  Further comments raised during debate included:  Income threshold was based across the entire household, not individuals;  Must have a local link of six months or more to be on the housing list;  Those applicants resident for five years would be prioritised; and  The obligation remained to provide for homeless households first following investigation into their status but they could be directed to private accommodation.  Cabinet considered the report and RESOLVED to: Note and agree the proposed Common Housing Register Allocations Policy and to agree for the proposed policy to be presented to full council for agreement and adoption.