

<b>CREATING OPPORTUNITIES AND TACKLING INEQUALITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>	<b>Agenda Item No. 7</b>
<b>3 AUGUST 2010</b>	<b>Public Report</b>

## **Report of the Solicitor to the Council**

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### **SCRUTINY BIG DEBATE – ISSUES PAPER**

#### **1. PURPOSE**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise the Committee of the outcomes of the Big Debate event which was held in February 2010.

#### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 To consider and comment on the outcomes of the Scrutiny Big Debate.
- 2.2 To delegate to the Group Representatives consideration of which items should be added to the Committee's work programme.
- 2.3 To receive an update on the progress of the outcomes at a future meeting.

#### **3. LINKS TO THE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY AND LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT**

- 3.1 The report and the outcomes of the Big Debate are linked to the Sustainable Community Strategy priority of Creating Opportunities, Tackling Inequalities.

#### **4. BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 The Scrutiny Big Debate involved an investigation by the four Scrutiny Committees in to how the economic downturn had affected the City in terms of its aspirations for growth, levels of crime, requirements to support vulnerable people and its credentials for environmental sustainability with particular reference to transport. It was a pioneering piece of work that had been designed and delivered in consultation with the Centre for Public Scrutiny.
- 4.2 The scope of the review for the Creating Opportunities and Tackling Inequalities Scrutiny Committee had been to look at how vulnerable adults and children were being supported in light of the economic climate and finite resources.
- 4.3 The event was held at the City College Peterborough on the 4 February and involved a panel of guest speakers from various organisations who gave their point of view on areas that had been affected by the downturn in economy. Four young people also attended who were classed as 16 to 18 year olds not in education, training or employment (NEET) to give their point of view of how they had been affected by the economic downturn. The audience were invited to challenge the panel on their points of view and this provoked lots of discussion.

#### **5. KEY ISSUES**

- 5.1 Following the discussion which was held on the evening a number of issues were suggested to take forward for further work. The issues which were raised at the Creating Opportunities and Tackling Inequalities Scrutiny event are attached at Appendix 1.

- 5.2 The Committee are now asked to formally receive the issues which were raised and to:
- (i) consider and comment on the outcomes of the Big Debate; and
  - (ii) delegate to the Group Representatives consideration of which items should be added to the Committee's work programme.

## **6. IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 Any implications are contained within the Issues Paper.

## **7. CONSULTATION**

- 7.1 Consultation has taken place as part of the Scrutiny Big Debate event held on 4 February 2010.

## **8. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

- 8.1 The Scrutiny Big Debate Issues Paper – April 2010

## **9. APPENDICES**

- 9.1 Appendix 1 - Outcomes from the Creating Opportunities and Tackling Inequalities Scrutiny Big Debate