

STRONG AND SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	Agenda Item No. 8
14 SEPTEMBER 2011	Public Report

Report of the Solicitor to the Council

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NEIGHBOURHOOD COUNCIL SCRUTINY REVIEW GROUP

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 The report is brought to the Committee to provide an update on the Neighbourhood Council Scrutiny Review Group.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Committee agrees:

- To change the name of the Neighbourhood Council Scrutiny Review Group to the Neighbourhood Committee Implementation Scrutiny Group
- The new terms of reference for the Group

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 At its meeting on 10th November 2010, the Strong and Supportive Communities Scrutiny Committee agreed to establish a Task and Finish group to conduct a review of Neighbourhood Councils. The review was completed in March 2011 and one of the recommendations included in the final report to Cabinet was as follows:

The recommendations, when agreed, form part of an overall implementation plan for Neighbourhood Councils alongside the recommendations that emerge from stage one of the review. This implementation plan should be overseen by the cross-party working group formed from the task and finish group, and become a standing item at all Strong and Supportive Communities Scrutiny Committee meetings, with regular updates also provided to Cabinet and Group Representatives

At its meeting on 21 March 2011, Cabinet agreed to the above recommendation.

- 3.2 The original membership of the group consisted of:

- Cllr Burton
- Cllr Todd
- Cllr Simons
- Cllr Khan
- Cllr JR Fox
- Cllr Sandford
- Cllr Goldspink

Councillors Goldspink and Simons have since resigned from the group.

3.3 The group last met on 31 August 2011 to discuss the following:

- The purpose of the group going forward in light of the agreed recommendation as stated in paragraph 3.1 above.
- The membership of the group
- The terms of reference

3.4 The following proposals were put forward for agreement by the Strong and Supportive Communities Scrutiny Committee:

Purpose of the Group

To monitor the implementation of the recommendations from the Neighbourhood Committee Review and to support the ongoing development of Neighbourhood Committees.

Terms of Reference

1. To monitor the implementation of the recommendations agreed at Cabinet and resolutions agreed at Full Council.
2. To work with officers to identify barriers and issues with the development of Neighbourhood Committees and find ways to solve them.
3. To champion the development and progress of Neighbourhood Committees and encourage engagement from other Members.
4. To support the development of Heads of Service in their involvement in Neighbourhood Committees.
5. To report to the Strong and Supportive Communities Scrutiny Committee in March 2012 on the progress of the group.

Membership

Membership of the group would continue with those members who had indicated that they wished to remain on the group.

- Cllr Burton
- Cllr Todd
- Cllr Khan
- Cllr JR Fox
- Cllr Sandford

New members may be included at the invitation of the group.

5. NEXT STEPS

5.1 That the Committee agree to the new terms of reference and name of the group.

6. CONSULTATION

6.1 None

7. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

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

- Review of Neighbourhood Councils Part 2 - Report of the Strong and Supportive Communities Scrutiny Committee Task and Finish Group dated March 2011
- Record of Executive Decision Notice dated 23 March 2011

8. APPENDICES
None

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