

<b>CABINET</b>	AGENDA ITEM No. 4
<b>25 MARCH 2013</b>	<b>PUBLIC REPORT</b>

Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Councillor Peter Hiller, Cabinet Member for Housing, Neighbourhoods and Planning	
Contact Officer(s):	Adrian Chapman, Head of Neighbourhood Services	Tel: 863887

**CITIZEN POWER PROGRAMME**

<b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	
<b>FROM : Councillor Peter Hiller</b>	<b>Deadline date : N/A</b>
Cabinet is asked 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 recommendations contained within it.	

**1. ORIGIN OF REPORT**

1.1 This report is submitted to Cabinet following a meeting of the Strong and Supportive Communities Scrutiny Committee held on 16 January 2013.

**2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT**

2.1 The purpose of this report is to inform Cabinet of the outcome of work undertaken by the Strong and Supportive Communities Scrutiny Committee in its review of the Citizen Power Peterborough Programme. Cabinet are asked to consider the report and agree the recommendations of the Committee.

2.2 This report is for Cabinet to consider under its Terms of Reference No. 3.2.9 'To commission reviews by and determine any changes of policy proposed by the Scrutiny Committees and Commissions'

**3. TIMESCALE**

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	<b>NO</b>
---	-----------

**4. CITIZEN POWER PROGRAMME**

4.1 The Strong and Supportive Communities Scrutiny Committee have completed their review of the Citizen Power Peterborough programme, reporting to its January 2013 meeting.

4.2 The review looked in depth at four areas of work:

- Management and Governance
- Communication and Marketing
- Financial information, and
- The six programme stands of Citizen Power.

- 4.3 The detail of that review is contained within the Strong and Supportive Communities Scrutiny Committee Citizen Power Task and Finish Group Final Report.
- 4.4 As a result of the review the Committee arrived at the following conclusions:
- 4.4.1 The Recovery Capital strand of the Programme was a particular success, having been used to shape a full redesign of the drugs recovery system in Peterborough with service users at the heart of that redesign. The Committee hope that the principles of user-designed services can be replicated across other Council services.
- 4.4.2 The Arts and Social Change strand of the Programme was perhaps the most controversial at times, sometimes feeling elitist and exclusive. However, there are some good examples of positive outcomes for individuals involved with this strand, and real evidence of connectivity between citizens. One thing that the Committee is clear about however is that the relationship between the Arts Council, the Council and Vivacity has been strengthened significantly as a result of the collaboration through Citizen Power.
- 4.4.3 Overall legacy for the programme as a whole is difficult to establish at this stage beyond the points referred to above. Individual project strands have created their own legacy and sustainability – for example, Recovery Capital through the new drug treatment system, Arts and Social Change through the support provided to develop a high quality arts offer in Peterborough, and the Peterborough Curriculum through the continued expansion of the project under the leadership of the Peterborough Learning Partnership.
- 4.4.4 Communication was sometimes an obstacle to the success of the Programme. Sometimes highly academic, the Programme communications generally didn't excite or engage with local people apart from some good examples within individual project strands.
- 4.4.5 On a similar theme, the Committee noted the lack of web presence to encourage participation. Extensive use of social media was also expected. However, on both counts the reliance on and use of web based tools to communicate and promote was limited.
- 4.4.6 The Committee generally felt that not enough groundwork had been done with councillors, our partners and our communities in advance of the project commencing. They do recognise that the Programme was not the responsibility of a single identified department for some time which may have contributed to this. Similarly the Committee felt that the programme would have benefited from a single project manager being clearly identified prior to the commencement of the project.
- 4.4.7 Finally, Committee were aware of concerns from councillors during the delivery of the Programme that various aspects of it were circumnavigating the role of elected ward members, there to support their communities and to act as a link between those communities and the council. Despite this, the outcomes of various project strands have actually served to confirm the critical role of elected councillors in Peterborough – community leaders who represent the views of their constituents and with whom partners can engage to make a real difference.

## **5. CONSULTATION**

- 5.1 Consultation undertaken is detailed in the report at Annex 1.

## **6. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES**

- 6.1 That Cabinet endorses the recommendations.

## **7. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 7.1 This report has come to Cabinet following a request from the Strong and Supportive Communities Scrutiny Committee.

## **8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 8.1 Option 1. Not to agree to the recommendations. The Committee do not recommend this as they consider that the Council should use the learning from the Citizen Power programme before entering into any future programme of work of a similar nature.
- 8.2 Option 2. Develop alternative recommendations. The Committee do not recommend this as they consider that the Task and Finish Group have conducted an in depth and objective review and therefore the recommendations put forward have been fully accepted by the committee.

## **9. IMPLICATIONS**

### **9.1 Finance**

There are no financial implications relating to the report.

### **9.2 Legal**

There are no legal implications relating to the report.

### **9.3 Environment**

There is no on-going environmental impact upon the Council

## **10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

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

Minutes of Strong and Supportive Communities Scrutiny meeting held on 16 January 2013.

## **11. APPENDIX**

Appendix 1: Citizen Power Programme: Final Report of the Strong and Supportive Communities Scrutiny Committee Task and Finish Group

This page is intentionally left blank