

STRONG AND SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	Agenda Item No. 7
16 September 2015	Public Report

**Report Author – Adrian Chapman, Service Director – Adults and Communities
Contact Details – 01733 863887**

PROPOSED SCOPE FOR THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE’S ‘COMMUNITIES STRATEGY’ TASK AND FINISH GROUP

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To provide the Committee with a draft scope for the previously agreed Task and Finish Group focussed on producing a new Communities Strategy.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Members are asked to review and scrutinise the proposed scope, and, subject to any requirements being incorporated, to approve it in order for the work of the Task and Finish Group to commence.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 At the June 2015 meeting, the Strong and Supportive Communities Scrutiny Committee agreed to set up a Task and Finish Group to look at the development of the new Communities Strategy which will set out the Council’s commitment to communities, including supporting voluntary and community activity, consultation, co-production and volunteering.
- 3.2 The scope, including frequency of meetings, methodology, timelines and reporting arrangements, must now be agreed in order for the Task and Finish Group to commence its work.
- 3.3 Group Secretaries have already been contacted to ask for names to be put forward to join the Task and Finish Group, and at time of writing these are confirmed as:
- Cllr J R Fox (Werrington First)
 - Cllr Faustino (Conservative)
 - Cllr Sandford (Liberal Democrat)
 - Cllr Whitby (UKIP)

4. KEY ISSUES

- 4.1 Attached at appendix 1 is the proposed scope for the Task and Finish Group.

5. IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 That the proposed scope is approved and the work of the Task and Finish Group can commence.

6. CONSULTATION

- 6.1 Not applicable.

7. EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- 7.1 That the Task and Finish Group oversee the development of a robust and comprehensive Communities Strategy that is presented back to the full Scrutiny Committee in January 2016, and, if agreed, to Cabinet for approval soon after.

8. NEXT STEPS

- 8.1 That any agreed comments are incorporated into the proposed scope and the Task and Finish Group commences its work.

9. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

- 9.1 None

10. APPENDICES

- 10.1 Appendix 1: Proposed Scope for the Task and Finish Group

Appendix 1: Proposed Scope

Title of Review:	PREPARING THE COMMUNITIES STRATEGY
Responsible Committee:	STRONG AND SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
Members of the Review Group:	Cllr J R Fox (Werrington First) Cllr Faustino (Conservative) Cllr Sandford (Liberal Democrat) Cllr Whitby (UKIP)
Co-optees onto the Review Group:	None to begin with, although Members reserve the right to identify co-optees should the work require it.
Lead Officer:	Hayley Thornhill, supported by Ian Phillips
Democratic Services Officer:	Dania Castagliuolo
Objectives and Purpose of the Review:	<p>1. To oversee the production of a new Council-wide Communities Strategy that will set out a consistent and understandable commitment for supporting and working with communities. The Strategy will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Directly link to and support our core values • Directly support and/or enable delivery of other key documents and plans (e.g. the Customer Strategy) • Support our objectives to become a commissioning council, including focussing on ensuring the right outcomes for residents and communities delivered in the right way • Help us to manage increasing demand for services, ensuring those most in need can get to services when they need to • Complement the work we do with our partners in the statutory and not-for-profit sectors, seeking ways to integrate our approaches wherever possible <p>2. To ensure the Strategy is comprehensive, and includes but is not limited to providing details of the following building blocks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Communities understanding their needs and where to find help and information ii. Communities taking responsibility for meeting their own needs iii. Voluntary, community and faith sectors having funding, skills and capacity to support communities iv. Developing a sense of place v. Developing and supporting volunteers vi. Community consultation and engagement vii. Community Right to Bid and Challenge (Localism Act) viii. Digital transformation ix. Citizenship, especially amongst young people x. Prevention and early intervention <p>3. To advise on and oversee any public consultation on the proposed strategy, along with any co-production work.</p>
Expected Outcomes of the Review:	A fully-co-produced and comprehensive Communities Strategy for submission to Cabinet for adoption.

Timescales (including proposed reporting dates)	<p>Submission to Cabinet is planned for some time between January and April 2016 (subject to the amount of consultation and co-production required).</p> <p>The draft Strategy is anticipated to be presented to the Scrutiny Committee at the January 2016 meeting.</p>
Resources:	<p>Specialist Staff: appropriate support services staff if relevant (e.g. legal)</p> <p>External Support: not applicable at present</p> <p>Budget: appropriate budgets to enable co-production and consultation</p>
Methodology for Review:	<p>The review will use a combination of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • desktop research to examine examples of good and poor practice from other councils and other sectors • desktop research and officer input to identify any statutory requirements or impacts of any decisions on other services • questioning expert witnesses when relevant, e.g. when considering the various building blocks previously referred to • co-production and consultation where appropriate and meaningful
Information Required:	<p>Details of the work carried out so far to plan for and draft the Communities Strategy.</p> <p>Details of relevant policies, plans and procedures already in existence across the Council.</p> <p>Examples of good and poor practice from other councils and other sectors.</p>
Witnesses Identified to Provide Information:	<p>To be determined as part of the review process.</p>
Date Scope of Review Agreed by the Committee:	