

ADULTS AND COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM No.7
20 JUNE 2017	PUBLIC REPORT

Report of:	Adrian Chapman, Service Director, Adults and Communities		
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Cllr Irene Walsh, Cabinet Member for Communities		
Contact Officer(s):	Ch Insp Rob Hill	Tel. 07815 694397	

PROPOSAL FOR A CROSS-PARTY TASK AND FINISH GROUP TO REVIEW COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN NEIGHBOURHOOD ISSUES

R E C O M M E N D A T I O N S	
FROM: Adrian Chapman	Deadline date: N/A
It is recommended that the Adults and Communities Scrutiny Committee agree to form a time limited, cross-party Task and Finish group as set out in this report.	

1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

1.1 This report follows an all-councillor briefing session during which information relating to demand for police and council services to tackle crime, ASB and neighbourhood issues was shared.

2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

2.1 During the all-councillor briefing it was recognised that more could be done to engage communities to help public services address some of the issues within our neighbourhoods. This paper sets out a proposal to form a time limited cross party Task and Finish group to investigate how this might be achieved and what practical ideas could be put in place to make a positive difference, building on the Council's People and Communities Strategy (attached at appendix 1).

2.2 This report is for the Adults and Communities Scrutiny Committee to consider under its Terms of Reference No.2.1: Functions determined by Council, 1. Adult Social Care

2.3 Clean, safe and vibrant neighbourhoods contribute to the overall wellbeing of residents and the success of a community. This report therefore supports all of the council's corporate priorities, most notably to keep communities safe, cohesive and healthy.

3. TIMESCALES

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	NO	If yes, date for Cabinet meeting	N/A
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4. BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

4.1 At a recent all-councillor briefing session, information about the demand for police and council services to tackle crime, anti-social behaviour (ASB) and neighbourhood issues was discussed. During the discussions, it was recognised that there could be potential to work more effectively with Empower and support residents, communities, community groups and voluntary

organisations to support the work of the public sector to both address neighbourhood issues and prevent them from recurring. The types of issues that were referenced included littering, fly tipping, speeding, verge parking and low level ASB, all of which negatively affect communities.

4.2 As the Council's People and Community Strategy points out, the way the Council and other public sector organisations deliver their services is changing. This is for a number of reasons, but principally this is down to two main factors: rising demand for services and less resource. In order to meet these challenges, communities need to be supported to help address issues within their own neighbourhoods. Empowering communities with the knowledge, skills and tools to help themselves rather than relying wholly on public services may lead to better outcomes for communities and reduce the cost to the public sector.

4.3 It is recommended that a cross party Task and Finish group is formed to investigate opportunities for greater collaboration between the public sector and communities, and to recommend ideas and initiatives that could be implemented, using the framework of the People and Communities Strategy as the backdrop to the work.

4.4 A draft terms of reference for the Task and Finish group is set out in Appendix 2.

5. CONSULTATION

5.1 The idea to form a cross party Task and Finish group originated from the discussions held at the all-councillor briefing session.

5.2 It is suggested that, as part of the Task and Finish group's work, further consultation takes place with communities in Peterborough and other towns and cities where there are already successful collaborations, as well as with key public and voluntary sector contacts to ensure the widest and most appropriate range of issues are included in the scope.

6. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT

6.1 It is anticipated that, if agreed, the Task and Finish group will identify opportunities for achieving successful collaboration between communities and public sector agencies to tackle neighbourhood issues.

7. REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

7.1 The recommendation to form a cross party Task and Finish group originated from a recent all-councillor briefing session.

8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

8.1 N/A

9. IMPLICATIONS

9.1 Financial Implications

9.1 Not known.

9.2 Legal Implications

Not known.

9.3 Equalities Implications

Not known.

9.4 Rural Implications

Not known, although it is anticipated that the Task and Finish group will consider *all* communities within the Peterborough City Council boundary.

10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

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

10.1 None.

11. APPENDICES

11.1 Appendix 1: People and Communities Strategy
Appendix 2: Draft Terms of Reference

Appendix 2

Scrutiny Task and Finish Group to Review Community Involvement in Neighbourhood Issues

DRAFT Terms of Reference

Membership

To be confirmed.

Advisers

Adrian Chapman, Service Director, Adults and Communities

Chief Inspector Rob Hill, Head of Prevention and Enforcement Service

Cate Harding, Programme Manager

Purpose

To make recommendations to the Adults and Communities Scrutiny Committee to harness the capacity within communities to work with and support public sector agencies to tackle neighbourhood issues, including environmental crime and anti social behaviour, in order to improve the quality of life of our residents.

Scope

1. To review the People and Communities Strategy to identify opportunities for the public, voluntary and community based organisations to play a role in tackling neighbourhood issues.
2. To review all available data and information relating to neighbourhood issues, and agree what issues are specifically in-scope for this work.
3. To review all existing services and interventions in place that tackle neighbourhood issues.
4. To review all existing or previous initiatives that have connected communities with the public sector to tackle neighbourhood issues.
5. To identify and review other areas of the UK or beyond where there have been successful collaborations between communities and public sector agencies to tackle neighbourhood issues.
6. To understand the skills and support that communities will need to help tackle neighbourhood issues, and to consider how and from where skills and support can be provided.
7. To identify and meet with expert witnesses to help inform discussions and recommendations.

Reporting

The Task and Finish group will report to the Adults and Communities Scrutiny Committee.