

STRONG AND SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	Agenda Item No. 9
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Report of the Head of Neighbourhoods

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REVIEW OF THE CITIZEN POWER PROGRAMME

1. PURPOSE

1.1 This report outlines the approach being taken to formally review the 'Citizen Power' programme.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 Members are asked to note the contents of the report.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 At the meeting of the Strong and Supportive Communities Scrutiny Committee on 19th January 2011, Members made the following recommendation:

That following consideration by the Committee of the Citizen Power Programme it is recommended to the Project Sponsor, Adrian Chapman, that the Citizen Power Programme, which is a joint venture between the Royal Society of Arts, Peterborough City Council and the Arts Council, be immediately disbanded.

3.2 A considerable amount of activity has already been delivered through the programme, and much is already planned. It is fully acknowledged that the way in which the programme has been communicated to councillors, residents and partners has not been effective, and that the planned outcomes have not been clearly articulated, but it is felt worthwhile to carry out further work to review the programme to identify whether or not the concerns of the committee can be addressed.

3.3 In considering the recommendation at 3.1, the Head of Neighbourhoods is therefore leading a full and formal review of the programme so that a final decision on its future can be made.

4. KEY ISSUES

4.1 The review that is being conducted is an internal Peterborough City Council review which is focussing on seven key areas:

- (i) **Review of all seven project strands:** including overall objectives, fit to corporate policy and strategy, evidence of need, and programme visibility and accessibility
- (ii) **Progress to date:** including what has been achieved, who has been involved, how much has been spent so far, what difference has been made
- (iii) **Future activities:** including what is still to be delivered, who will be involved, how will they be involved, how much money will be spent, what difference will be made

- (iv) **Communications:** including what media and communications activity has been delivered so far, what does the communications strategy show for future activity, what difference has previous activity made
- (v) **Governance and programme management:** including what are the current governance and management arrangements, are these fit for purpose, do these arrangements comply with PCC policy
- (vi) **Legacy:** including what happens beyond the currently planned project end date, how does the programme contribute to other policies, for example the Single Delivery Plan
- (vii) **National perspective:** including does the programme help or hinder our national reputation, what impact will it have on future investment

5. CONSULTATION

- 5.1 Weekly update meetings have been implemented between the Head of Neighbourhoods, the Citizen Power Programme Manager and his line manager, to ensure the review is progressing well.
- 5.2 A task and finish group has also been formed, led by the Head of Neighbourhoods and comprising the officers referred to in 5.1 in addition to other colleagues who are unfamiliar with the programme and who are acting as critical friends.

6. NEXT STEPS

- 6.1 The review will be concluded as swiftly as possible, and the findings will be reported back to the Committee at its first meeting of the new Municipal Year.
- 6.2 During the review period, activity on the programme is continuing but is being very carefully considered in the spirit of the review before authorisation is given.

7. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

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

- 7.1 None

8. APPENDICES

- 8.1 None