

**NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUMS WORKING GROUP**  
**(Report by the Head of Legal and Democratic Services)**

**1. INTRODUCTION**

1.1 At the Panel's last meeting, a Working Group was established to undertake a review of the Neighbourhood Forums in Huntingdonshire. At the Working Group's first meeting, Councillor S J Criswell was appointed as its Chairman. This report contains a brief update on the Working Group's progress.

**2. WORKING GROUP INVESTIGATIONS**

2.1 The Working Group has received a presentation from the Managing Director (Communities, Partnerships and Projects), the Corporate Team Manager and the Healthy Communities Manager on the Shape My Place initiative currently being piloted in Fenland and the potential advantages of adopting it in Huntingdonshire.

2.2 Discussion has taken place on the implications of the Police's Operation Redesign for its involvement in any future public engagement arrangements adopted by local public authorities, the geographical areas the new arrangements might cover and the views received from interested parties following consultation on the Neighbourhood Forums.

2.3 In order for Members to take their investigations forward, they have asked for:

- diagrams of the settlements identified by interested parties as comprising their local communities compared with the wards represented by District and County Councillors;
- a list of functions that the new bodies might perform;
- suggested constitutional terms for the new bodies, including reporting lines into local public bodies.

2.4 The Working Group will meet with the Police's Huntingdonshire Area Commander early in the New Year to discuss their work.

**3. CONCLUSION**

3.1 Having reviewed the presentation materials on the Shape My Place initiative, the Working Group is of the view that it will promote community engagement by enabling public bodies to establish a dialogue with a sector of local residents who would not normally be inclined to attend the existing Neighbourhood Forums. Furthermore, it will allow members of the public to feed into the democratic process and provide a means to report back to them on outcomes. **The Council is, therefore, recommended to adopt the Shape My Place initiative.**

**BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Social Well-Being) 1/11/2011 - Minutes and Reports.

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