

REPORT OF THE CABINET

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 At its meeting held on 19th July 2012, the Cabinet considered the deliberations of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Social Well-Being) on:-

- ◆ Neighbourhood Forums – Proposed Establishment of Local Joint Committees in Huntingdonshire; and
- ◆ Voluntary Sector Funding 2013/2014 Onwards.

1.2 Councillors P J Downes and R J West were in attendance and spoke to the item on Local Joint Committees.

2. NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUMS – PROPOSED ESTABLISH OF LOCAL JOINT COMMITTEES IN HUNTINGDONSHIRE

2.1 The Cabinet welcomed the responses received to the consultation on proposed boundaries, composition, voting and constitution for new Local Joint Committees (LJC's) in Huntingdonshire.

2.2 In discussing the Working Group's suggestion that a twelve month trial of meetings be held in all nine LJC areas, the Cabinet were conscious that this was a large area and that a smaller locality would make the pilot more manageable. The Cabinet therefore agreed that a pilot scheme be trialled in the Norman Cross County Division for a twelve month period.

2.3 With regard to the existing Neighbourhood Forums, the Cabinet recognised that some areas may wish to continue with these meetings. With this in mind, the Cabinet authorised the Executive Deputy Leader to review urgently their format with a view to them continuing, during the trial, in those areas that express a desire for them to remain.

2.4 In approving the contents of the Constitution of the LJC's, the Cabinet accepted that the County Council and relevant Parish Councils involved in the Norman Cross Pilot Scheme should be consulted on adopting the Constitution.

2.5 Having thanked the Neighbourhood Forum Working Group and the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Social Well-Being) for their input, the Cabinet agreed that a review of the pilot scheme during its 12 months of operation be undertaken by the Panel.

3. VOLUNTARY SECTOR FUNDING 2013/2014

3.1 With regard to the allocation of funding to support the voluntary sector in Huntingdonshire from April 2013, the Cabinet supported a move to a three year period for funding.

3.2 The Cabinet also supported the suggestion that future financial support be tapered to ensure voluntary organisations find match funding for any grant that they receive from the Council in the final year of the three year period.

Furthermore, Members were of the opinion that match funding should be extended to applications to the community chest subject to the amount requested being of such a value to attract such funds.

- 3.3 In discussing the allocation of community chest funds, the Cabinet decided that the process should be straightforward and the level of funding set at a maximum of £5,000 per application. Those in receipt of funds via the community chest will not be legible for reconsideration for a period of two years.
- 3.4 The Cabinet confirmed that grant applications will be determined by the Executive Members for Healthy and Active Communities and Resources.
- 3.5 The new funding process will be open to the whole voluntary sector and provision will be made to allow some applicants to make presentations in support of their submissions.

4. CONCLUSION

Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel are invited to note the contents of this report and are requested to undertake a review of the Norman Cross Pilot Scheme, referred to in paragraph 2.5, during its twelve months of operation.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Report of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Social Well-Being) – 3rd July 2012.

Minutes and Report of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 19th July 2012.

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