

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Slough Wellbeing Board

DATE: 29 March 2017

CONTACT OFFICER: Dean Tyler, Head of Policy, Partnerships & Programmes
(For all enquiries) (01753) 875847

WARD(S): All

PART I **FOR DISCUSSION**

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT UPDATE

1. **Purpose of Report**
 - 1.1 To provide the Wellbeing Board with an opportunity to discuss proposals to develop our approach to community engagement.
2. **Recommendation(s)/Proposed Action**
 - 2.1 To note the attached summary report of a workshop held on 11 January and to agree ways in which we can work together to improve community engagement.
3. **The Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy, the JSNA and the Council's Five Year Plan**
 - 3.1 The Wellbeing Strategy states that "we will look for ways in which we can build on how we currently engage with people as individual agencies and look for opportunities to coordinate this." Being able to do this effectively will ensure that we are collectively working to achieve the priorities and outcomes in the Wellbeing Strategy and Five Year Plan.
 - 3.2 The Five Year Plan is clear about the Council's ongoing commitment to "listen to and work with our communities, customers and partners" and "to working with our key partners to develop a more integrated way of working with our residents."
4. **Other Implications**
 - a) Financial - There are no financial implications associated with the proposed actions.
 - b) Risk Management - There are no identified risks associated with the proposed actions.
 - c) Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications - There are no direct legal implications. There are no Human Rights Act Implications.

- d) Equalities Impact Assessment - There is no requirement to complete an Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA) in relation to this report.

5. Summary

This item provides an opportunity for the Board to discuss ways in which we can improve our collective approach to community engagement.

Following the initial themed discussion on engaging people at the Wellbeing Board's November meeting members of the Board attended a workshop in January to look at the issues in more detail and a summary report is attached. This was shared for information at the Board's 26 January meeting.

We now need to agree next steps so that we are able to point to tangible progress in this area by the time of our 2017 Annual Conference which has been provisionally booked for **Thursday 21 September**.

6. Supporting information

- 6.1 Improving the ways in which we engage with communities was identified as an important issue in the Wellbeing Strategy when it was launched in September 2016.
- 6.2 The Board had a themed discussion at its November meeting following which it was agreed that further work needed to be undertaken to look at the issues in more detail and identify ways in which partners could improve how they work together.
- 6.3 A workshop was held on 11 January which addressed the following questions:
1. Why do we do community engagement and what are our strategic objectives?
 2. What issues are we focussing on when we are engaging with the community and how are these to be measured?
 3. Who is involved with community engagement, is there scope for collaboration and a need for a central body/individual/entity who can help streamline the approach, hold it together and be accountable for the outcomes going forward?
 4. What examples if any are available where community engagement has worked well and perhaps not worked so well? Sharing best practice
 5. When do we need to start something more collaboratively and how will the Wellbeing Board manage the outcomes and expectations?
- 6.4 A summary report of the workshop is attached.
- 6.5 In the meantime the council has been developing a 'one council' approach to working with communities. This will review our existing Community Engagement Policy and better help to meet the priorities of the council by:

- Enabling our communities to do more for themselves
- Building community resilience
- Ensuring meaningful engagement with our communities

6.6 This will inform the council's future programme of community development and engagement work and will incorporate 3 main projects under a single community development programme, these are:

- A. Hubs – Building based assets from which council priorities can be achieved,
- B. Community Development – ensuring better coordination and integration of our direct work with communities and improve community resilience
- C. Integrated Community Working – Council, NHS and voluntary sector staff working in multi disciplinary environments in order to maximise early intervention solutions for the citizens of Slough.

7. **Comments of Other Committees**

7.1 None at this stage.

8. **Conclusion**

8.1 The attached summary report is intended to provide members of the Board with an update on the ongoing work to improve community engagement. We need to agree next steps so that we can report back to the wider partnership at our Annual Conference, provisionally planned for Thursday 21 September.

9. **Appendices Attached**

'A' Community engagement workshop summary report

10. **Background Papers**

None.