

REPORT TO	ON
CABINET	19 June 2019



TITLE	PORTFOLIO	REPORT OF
Strategic Review of Community Involvement, including My Neighbourhood arrangements and Creation of Cross-party Member Working Group	Community Engagement, Social Justice and Wealth Building	Assistant Director of Scrutiny and Democratic Services

Is this report a <b>KEY DECISION</b> (i.e. more than £100,000 or impacting on more than 2 Borough wards?)	<b>No</b>
Is this report on the <b>Statutory Cabinet Forward Plan</b> ?	<b>Yes</b>
Is the request outside the policy and budgetary framework and therefore subject to confirmation at full Council?	<b>No</b>
Is this report confidential?	<b>No</b>

## PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- At the Annual Council meeting on 15 May 2019 the Leader outlined the Cabinet's desire to strengthen and enhance community involvement in the way the Council is run as part of creating a new Community Engagement, Social Justice and Wealth Building Cabinet portfolio.
- It was also reported that a fundamental review of the way My Neighbourhood Forums operate would be carried out.
- This report proposes that a strategic review of community involvement takes place, including the My Neighbourhood arrangements, by a cross-party Member working group to report back in January 2020.

## PORTFOLIO RECOMMENDATIONS

- That a strategic review of community involvement, including the My Neighbourhood Forums should take place;
- That a cross-party Member working group be created as outlined in the report that will present its findings to Cabinet in January 2020.

## REASONS FOR THE DECISION

- To help ensure that the Council achieves its vision of being a council that is recognised as being innovative, forward thinking and financial self-sufficient, whilst putting people at the heart of everything we do it is important that our community is involved in the way the Council is run.

With the new Cabinet following the elections and creation of new Cabinet portfolio for Community Engagement, Social Justice and Wealth Building it is an opportune time to carry out a strategic review of community involvement.

**CORPORATE PRIORITIES**

7. The report relates to the following corporate priorities:

Excellence and Financial Sustainability	✓
Health and Wellbeing	✓
Place	✓

Projects relating to People in the Corporate Plan:

People	✓
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## **BACKGROUND TO THE REPORT**

8. At the Annual Council meeting on 15 May 2019 the Leader outlined the Cabinet's desire to strengthen and enhance community involvement in the way the Council is run. As part of this a new Community Engagement, Social Justice and Wealth Building Cabinet portfolio was created.
9. As part of appointing Chairs and making some changes to the boundaries of the My Neighbourhood Forums it was reported that a fundamental review of the Forums would take place.
10. In order to ensure we consider and maximise the benefits of involving our communities more and the close links with the My Neighbourhood Forums it is felt that a strategic review takes place and reports back to Cabinet.

## **PROPOSALS (e.g. RATIONALE, DETAIL, FINANCIAL, PROCUREMENT)**

11. It is proposed that a cross-party Member Working Group be created to carry out the strategic review of community involvement, including the My Neighbourhood Forums.
12. The membership of the cross-party Member working group is to be made up of nominations from the Group Leaders based on 3 Members from the Labour Group, 2 Members from the Conservative Group and 2 Members from the Liberal Democrat Group with appropriate officer support.
13. The Member Working Group would be chaired by the Cabinet Member for Community Engagement, Social Justice and Wealth Building.
14. The terms of reference for the Member Working Group would be to carry out a strategic review of Community Involvement, including the My Neighbourhood Forums and make recommendations to the Cabinet by January 2020.
15. It is up to the Member Working Group to design the most appropriate methodology, research and ways of working it feels appropriate for achieving the outcome of the strategic review.

## **CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT AND OUTCOME OF CONSULTATION**

16. The Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member have been consulted and support this report. Consultation and engagement will form a major part of the strategic review.

## **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED**

17. An alternative option that has been considered is not to carry out a review. However, this has been rejected as it would not achieve the desire of the Cabinet or enhance our community involvement activities.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

18. None as a result of this report. The Member Working Group will be supported using existing resources.

## **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

19. None as a result of this report.

## **AIR QUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

20. None as a result of this report.

## **HUMAN RESOURCES AND ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS**

21. None as a result of this report.

## **ICT/TECHNOLOGY IMPLICATIONS**

22. None as a result of this report.

## **PROPERTY AND ASSET MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

23. None as a result of this report.

## **RISK MANAGEMENT**

24. The key risks will be considered as part of the Member Working Group scoping the strategic review and appropriate mitigation measures put in place.

## **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPACT**

25. None as a result of this report.

## **RELEVANT DIRECTORS RECOMMENDATIONS**

26. A strategic review of community involvement, including the My Neighbourhood Forums takes place;

27. A cross-party Member working group be created as outlined in the report that will present its findings to Cabinet in January 2020.

## **COMMENTS OF THE STATUTORY FINANCE OFFICER**

28. There are no financial implications in relation to conducting a review. If there are any changes proposed as a result of the strategic review, then any financial implications will be assessed and reported at that stage.

## **COMMENTS OF THE MONITORING OFFICER**

29. The purpose of this report is to gain Cabinet support for a strategic review of community engagement and in that regard to set up a cross-party Member working group. Accordingly

there are no legal implications arising from this report. If any changes to existing practices are ultimately proposed then the governance implications of such decisions will need to be carefully considered.

**BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

There are no background papers to this report.

**APPENDICES**

There are no appendices to this report.

Darren Cranshaw  
Assistant Director of Scrutiny & Democratic Services

Report Author:	Telephone:	Date:
Darren Cranshaw	01772 625512	03/06/19