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Direct dial 0115 914 8481
Email memberservices@rushliffe.gov.uk

Our reference:
Your reference:
Date: 12 March 2014

To all Members of the Community Development Group

Dear Councillor

A meeting of the COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GROUP will be held on Tuesday 18 March 2014 at 7.00 pm in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Pavilion Road, West Bridgford to consider the following items of business.

Yours sincerely

Executive Manager Operations and Corporate Governance

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Declarations of Interest
3. Notes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 21 January 2014 (pages 1 - 6)
4. Relationship with Town and Parish Councils

The report of the Executive Manager - Communities is attached (pages 7 - 8).

5. Request for Scrutiny of New Energy Initiatives

The report of the Executive Manager - Communities is attached (pages 9 - 11).

6. Work Programme

The report of the Executive Manager - Operations and Corporate Governance is attached (pages 12 - 13).

Membership

Chairman: Councillor R L Butler
Vice-Chairman: Councillor T Combella
Councillors S J Boote, N K Boughton-Smith, L B Cooper, J E Greenwood,
Mrs M M Males, G R Mallender and 1 Conservative Vacancy

Meeting Room Guidance

Fire Alarm Evacuation: in the event of an alarm sounding please evacuate the building using the nearest fire exit, normally through the Council Chamber. You should assemble in the Nottingham Forest car park adjacent to the main gates.

Toilets are located opposite Committee Room 2.

Mobile Phones: For the benefit of others please ensure that your mobile phone is switched off whilst you are in the meeting.

Microphones: When you are invited to speak please press the button on your microphone, a red light will appear on the stem. Please ensure that you switch this off after you have spoken.



NOTES
OF THE MEETING OF THE
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GROUP
TUESDAY 21 JANUARY 2014

Held at 7.00 pm in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Pavilion Road, West Bridgford

PRESENT:

Councillors R L Butler (Chairman), S J Boote, N K Boughton-Smith,
T Combellack, L B Cooper, J E Greenwood, Mrs M M Males, G R Mallender

OFFICERS PRESENT:

D Banks	Executive Manager - Neighbourhoods
A Graham	Chief Executive
D Mitchell	Executive Manager - Communities
V Nightingale	Senior Member Support Officer
A Poole	Project Manager

APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE:

Councillor M G Hemsley

12. Declarations of Interest

There were none declared.

13. Notes of the Previous Meeting

The notes of the meeting held on Tuesday 29 October 2013 were accepted as a true record. Following a discussion it was felt that if any decision was not unanimous it should be stated, as had occurred on the HS2 discussion.

14. YouNG Network Group

Following a request by the Group the Chief Executive gave a presentation outlining the Council's ground breaking social media project. He stated that consideration had been given to how the Council could take forward the 2012 Olympic legacy to inspire a generation. As a result a project had been evolved to help young people develop their work skills and to further the Council's engagement with young people. The young people had created the brand for the group and the brand had subsequently been registered by the Council.

The project had started in September 2012 when the Council employed one student from each of the seven secondary schools in the Borough. A second group of students was recruited in September 2013. He informed Members that the project was driven by the young people and promoted local events, business, activities and services which were relevant to young people. Members were informed that the project established a relevant communications network as well as developing the social media and creative writing skills of the participants. It also strengthened the links between the seven secondary schools and with the Borough Council.

The Chief Executive stated that by employing the young people they gained experience of a working environment. They were paid £3.50 per hour and the first cohort had completed 1,220 hours in the first year, which equated to an approximate cost of £4,500 per annum to the Authority. Officers had been impressed that there had only been a 3.7% absence rate which was mainly due to vying school activities, and only 1.1% sickness absence.

As part of the project the group had worked with The Media Group on a video, had created an app, produced a newsletter, run a 'YouNG market' and worked on a health leaflet. They had also been consulted on the County Council's new youth facility in West Bridgford, created a website which included blogs and tweets about community events. Young people were informed about how to stay safe on line and the group wanted to carry out work on preventing cyber bullying. The challenges for officers and the group were to keep the site fresh and up to date within the time available.

One of the highlights of the year had been the YouNG market which had been organised, promoted and run by the young people themselves. The market had enabled young entrepreneurs to showcase their talents, whilst supporting the Council's aims to encourage and support economic growth. The Chief Executive stated that one of the stallholders had since moved into new premises and been able to grow his business. Following this success the new group of young people were arranging a market in Bingham on 1 March 2014.

The Chief Executive stated that initially the young people had been nominated for the project by their teachers; however, he was pleased to say that for the second year the nominations had come from the young people. The project had received many accolades from the young people, their parents and their teachers, especially on the personal development of the young people.

Members were informed of future events, one where the group would meet local businesses and secondly when the schools could meet with businesses to network and discuss how young people could gain the necessary skills and experience to gain employment.

Following a question the Chief Executive stated that he had shared the objectives of the project with other local authority Chief Executives. It was felt that, with funding, this could help many young people. It was noted that there were other agencies that either concentrated on the top 1% of the most academic young people or those young people who were already in trouble, or those that are Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET). It was also recognised that career advice had been reduced and he felt that schools and businesses should discuss the best way forward for young people. He stated that this project was for the young people that did not fit into any of those categories and was not designed to replicate or duplicate any other agency.

With regard to apprenticeships it was stated that these were often available but not very well publicised. The Council had taken on a number of apprentices in various roles and was considering how it could finance more. Following concerns raised the Chief Executive stated that the limitations to the project were time and funding. He was pleased to say that two local businesses had offered support for the website and this could enable it to be developed to encompass young people from year 10 up to post graduate.

With regards to funding this could be achieved through the development of a community involvement company.

The Project Manager, in response to a question, informed the Group that the health issues leaflet had been raised by the YouNG group as part of the NHS Choose Well campaign. She stated that the group had felt that there was very little information available to help young people to make informed choices on health related matters. Members were informed that the Clinical Commissioning Group were involved and assisting the group. It was also important that the group developed their own ideas and were not seen to be led by the Council.

Councillor Combellack stated that as each group of young people moved forward then the principals of the project could be expanded beyond the Borough. She also gave Members information on the 'Say Yes' project which involved major businesses in the City of Nottingham giving young people six week apprenticeships. With regards to the group and their twitter feeds she wondered if local sports people could be involved as this would widen the message recipients.

The Group believed that this was a very worthwhile project and should be supported.

It was AGREED that the achievements and future priorities of the YouNG project be noted and that officers should explore further funding opportunities and the scope to expand the project out of Rushcliffe.

15. Assets of Community Value – Year One Review

The Executive Manager - Communities presented a report regarding the Council's process for recording assets of community value, which was one of the four new community rights contained within the Localism Act 2011. He stated that Cabinet had approved the process in December 2012 and had requested that this should be reviewed 12 months after it had been introduced. He stated that the Council had been proactive in promoting the scheme to the parishes via the annual conference and parish forums.

The Executive Manager – Communities explained that there had only been three applications made to the Council which was reflective of the small number of applications made across Nottinghamshire. Of the applications received two had been accepted. The third, the Manor House, Bingham, had failed the criteria as it had not been in community use. When the owners had been contacted it was noted that there had been some differences of opinions but no real objections to the process.

Following a discussion Members were informed that the right was not to buy the buildings but to register the building. Then if the owner wished to sell the property the Council would be informed and it, in turn would notify the interested parties, who would then have a period of six months to raise the funds. Although the owner was still not obliged to sell the property to the interested parties. Members also felt that this could be used to register

churches however the purchase price could be an obstacle. The Group noted that a nominated asset could be owned by the Council.

It was AGREED that the Group endorsed the current process and its continuation.

16. Community Right to Challenge – Year One Review

The Executive Manager - Communities stated that, similar to the previous agenda item, this was one of the community rights contained within the Localism Act 2011. He stated that the process had not been tested as there had not been any applications. Officers had contacted 40 other councils who had also not received any challenges. Nationally, officers only knew of two examples. Members were reminded that only certain bodies had the right to challenge; parish councils could challenge but the Borough Council could not.

Members queried if grass cutting could be a service where a challenge could be made. The Executive Manager - Communities stated that the Council worked in partnership with parishes and other organisations. When considering the costs it was often not efficient for small areas to take over responsibility whereas the partnership approach gave economies of scale.

The Executive Manager - Communities stated that the Council had considered, as part of the Leisure Strategy, Keyworth Leisure Centre being run by the community however there had not been any interest.

Members were surprised that there had not been any challenges and asked officers to keep them informed if any applications were received.

It was AGREED that the current process should continue and that it should be reviewed following the first application.

17. Work Programme

The Group considered its work programme. It was felt that, at the next meeting, the Group should discuss new energy initiatives, such as wind, hydro and solar power, fracking, bio digesters, etc. Members discussed the siting of wind turbines and how this linked into the planning process. Officers stated that work was being undertaken with Melton Borough Council as the Borough had not approved any large wind turbines. It was felt that it would be useful to see if the Council had a policy on such issues, how any developments were operating and their impact on the Borough.

The Executive Manager - Neighbourhoods stated that another item for the work programme could be how the Council's regulatory services such as health and safety, food safety and planning interacted with businesses to encourage economic prosperity. This subject could also include considering how the Finance and Commercial service area encouraged business growth in relation to Business Rates. Members asked if this could include consideration of the changes to use of agricultural buildings.

Members asked for a presentation on the work of the D2N2 Local Enterprise Partnership and were informed that this could be included within the Group's update on economic development.

Following a discussion on housing, homelessness, affordable rents and choice based lettings it was acknowledged that the Partnership Delivery Group annually scrutinised both Metropolitan Housing Trust and the Waterloo Housing Group.

It was AGREED that the Group's work programme should be amended to include the topics of new energy initiatives and how the Borough Council's regulatory services encouraged economic prosperity.

The meeting closed at 9.20 pm.

Action Sheet

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GROUP - TUESDAY 21 JANUARY 2014

Minute Number	Actions	Officer Responsible
14. YouNG Network Group	Members to be advised how to download the YouNG app.	Project Manager
16. Community Right to Challenge – Year One Review	Officers to inform Members when the first application is received	Executive Manager - Communities
17. Work Programme	Officers to include the subjects of new energy initiatives and how the Borough Council's regulatory services encouraged economic prosperity into the work programme	Executive Manager - Neighbourhoods and Member Services



Community Development Group

18 March 2014

Relationship with Town and Parish Councils

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Report of the Executive Manager - Communities

Summary

Rushcliffe Borough Council has a 'Partnership with the Parishes' agreement which outlines how the Council works to support the Borough's Town and Parish Councils.

Members will receive a presentation from the Executive Manager - Communities detailing the actions undertaken to identify and meet the needs of Town and Parish Councils.

Recommendation

It is RECOMMENDED that the actions undertaken in respect of work with Town and Parish Councils be noted.

Details

1. The relationship with the town and parish councils was scrutinised by the Community Development Group in April 2013.
2. This review identified that town and parish councils viewed the relationship as generally positive, but identified six recommendations for further improvement.
3. Recommendations identified for improvement during 2013/14
 - Produce a short summary document of the 'Partnership with the Parishes'
 - Member Services to act as key point of contact to Executive Managers
 - Where possible executive summaries of large Council documents to be supplied
 - Engagement of town and parish councils in forward planning the forums / conference and involvement of other parties in programme delivery
 - Include key county link officers in communications and explore collaboration
 - Arrange a meeting with interested parishes to review recommendations

Financial Comments

There are no known direct financial issues arising from this report

Section 17 Crime and Disorder Act

There are no known community safety issues arising from this report

Diversity

There are no known diversity issues arising from this report

Background Papers Available for Inspection: Nil

Report of the Executive Manager - Communities

Introduction

1. At the meeting of the Community Development Group held on the 21 January 2014, Councillor Butler made a request for new energy initiatives to be scrutinised. After some discussion it was suggested that the request should be referred to this Group to determine whether the topic should be included on the work programme. Furthermore, if the topic is accepted, the Group is requested to determine the scope and desired outcomes of the review.
2. The Executive Manager - Communities will provide Members with an introductory presentation on the alternative energy options to support consideration of the questions identified within this report.

Recommendation

It is RECOMMENDED that Members consider

- a) whether new energy initiatives should be a substantive scrutiny item for inclusion on the work programme and if so,
- b) The scope and objective of the review.

Detail

3. As Members will recall, there is a process for determining whether a suggested topic should be included on the work programme of a scrutiny group. This involves answering some initial questions and then, if appropriate completing a prioritising matrix.

Initial questions to ask

A. Why would we do this?

The number of alternative sources of energy generation has increased over recent years and Council has not scrutinised the associated implications.

B. How does this link to the Council's Corporate Strategy?

Although it is not a strategic task in the Corporate Strategy it could contribute to the following themes;

- Supporting economic growth to ensure a sustainable, prosperous and thriving local economy

- Maintaining and enhancing our residents' quality of life

It could also contribute to the delivery of the Council's Climate Change Strategy.

C. What tangible benefits could result for the community or our customers?

Establishing a position statement on sources of energy production could inform future responses relating to provision within Rushcliffe.

D. What evidence is there to support the need for a review?

The Council does not currently have a policy in relation to the generation of energy within the Borough.

E. What would we wish to achieve and why?

This review could inform and support future planning guidance and identify issues arising from new energy production which could impact on Rushcliffe residents.

F. Are resources available to undertake a scrutiny exercise and will the work programme accommodate it?

The work programme could accommodate the review. The task could be contained within the Communities department. The programme of meetings would be likely to incorporate both internal officers and external subject area experts. This can be accommodated within existing financial resources.

Are there any reasons to reject the topic?

G. Is it in the Scrutiny Group's terms of reference?

Yes.

H. Is it already being addressed?

Part 1 of the Local Plan (not currently adopted) includes broad strategic policies in respect of renewable energy. A further supplementary planning document focussing primarily on wind power is proposed to be produced by January 2015.

Part 2 of the Local Plan (approximately February 2016) is anticipated to include more detailed policy relating to energy generation. The outcome of scrutiny by the Community Development Group could inform and support this process.

I. Is it part of a legal process/ complaint/ grievance procedure?

The Local Plan is a process governed by legislation however this review is not anticipated to be a formal part of the process.

J. Is it unlikely to result in real or tangible benefits?

As this topic has not previously been scrutinised by Members the outcome is anticipated to be of benefit.

K. If a detailed scrutiny exercise was needed is there sufficient capacity to support such a review?

See answer to question F above. Allocation of corporate capacity outside the Communities department would require a reprioritisation of resources.

Summary

4. A request was made at the Community Development Group on 21 January 2014 for new energy initiatives such as wind, solar, anaerobic digestion and shale gas extraction to be scrutinised. Members are asked to consider whether the request should be supported and if so what the focus of the review should be.

Financial Comments

There are no financial implications

Section 17 Crime and Disorder Act

There are no crime and disorder implications

Diversity

There are no diversity implications

Background Papers Available for Inspection: Nil



Community Development Group

18 March 2014

Work Programme

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Report of the Executive Manager - Operations and Corporate Governance

The work programme for the Community Development Group is developed around the corporate priorities that fall within its remit and takes into account the timing of the Group's business in the previous municipal year and any emerging issues and key policy developments that may arise throughout the year. It is anticipated that the work programme for the year will be developed in line with the priorities identified in the 4 year plan for budget savings.

Members are asked to propose future topics to be considered by the Group, in line with the Council's priorities which are:

- *Supporting economic growth to ensure a prosperous and thriving local economy - Our economy;*
- *Maintaining and enhancing our residents' quality of life -Our residents*
- *Transforming the Council to enable the delivery of efficient high quality services - Our Council*

Recommendation

It is RECOMMENDED that the Group notes the report and considers any future topics.

Date of Meeting	Item
18 March 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on Work with the parishes • New Energy Initiatives (scoping exercise) • Work Programme
6 May 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on Economic Development • Work Programme
15 July 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Report • Role of Rushcliffe Borough Council's regulatory services in encouraging economic prosperity • Work Programme

Date of Meeting	Item
21 October 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on Delivery of Rural Broadband in Rushcliffe • Work Programme
20 January 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work Programme

Financial Comments

No direct financial implications arise from the proposed work programme

Section 17 Crime and Disorder Act

In the delivery of its work programme the Group supports delivery of the Council's Section 17 responsibilities.

Diversity

The policy development role of the Group ensures that its proposed work programme supports delivery of Council's Corporate Priority 6 'Meeting the Diverse needs of the Community'.

Background Papers Available for Inspection: Nil