

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET

30TH JUNE 2010

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN LOCAL DEMOCRACY TASK GROUP REPORT

Responsible Portfolio Holders	Councillors G. Denaro and R. Smith
Responsible Head of Service For Overview and Scrutiny	Mrs. C. Felton – Head of Legal, Equalities and Democratic Services

1. SUMMARY

1.1 The purpose of this report is to allow Cabinet to consider the findings and recommendations of the attached Overview Board Task Group report.

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 The Cabinet is requested to:

- (a) consider the attached Overview Board report (Appendix 1) and recommendations contained within it;
- (b) to either agree, amend or reject each of the Overview Board recommendations contained in the report;
- (c) provide an Executive Response to the Overview Board report and recommendations, which may include an Action Plan to summarise how and when each of the agreed recommendations will be implemented.
- (d) request the relevant Portfolio Holders in consultation with appropriate officers to indicate the expected implementation dates, as appropriate.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 At the Meeting of the Overview Board on 3rd November 2009, it was decided a Task Group would be established to consider ways to improve community involvement in the democratic process and preparations for Democracy Year 2010-2011 and that Councillor L. Turner would be appointed as Chairman.

3.2 The full terms of reference were approved by the Overview Board at its meeting held on 2nd February 2010 when membership of the Task Group was also agreed. .

3.3 The 'draft' recommendations were presented to the Corporate Management Team meeting on 20th April 2010 requesting feedback on the feasibility and financial implications of the 'draft' recommendations to the Scrutiny Officer. The 'draft' recommendations were also presented to the Equality and Diversity Forum meeting on 15th April 2010 for comment.

- 3.3 The Task Group report and recommendations were agreed by the Overview Board at its meeting on 1st June 2010 and referred to Cabinet for consideration.

KEY ISSUES

- 4.1 Overview and scrutiny is a key part of the Council's democratic decision making process and enabled non-executive Members of the Council to put forward recommendations for policy development, policy review and service improvement.

5. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 Overview and Scrutiny committees do not have decision making powers but make recommendations to the Cabinet and other decision makers. Overview and Scrutiny recommendations are published and presented to the Cabinet in accordance with Part 14.1 of the Council Constitution.
- 5.2 Upon consideration of the recommendations the Cabinet is requested to provide an Executive Response and executive decision in respect of each recommendation.
- 5.3 The recommendations of the Task Group are summarised on page 3 of the Task Group report attached at Appendix 1.

6. THE EXECUTIVE RESPONSE

- 6.1 The Cabinet is asked to provide an Executive Response to the Overview Board report and recommendations and to either agree, reject or amend each of the recommendations set out in the report. The relevant portfolio holder(s) are also requested to present the Executive Response to the next meeting of the Overview Board on 27th July 2010.
- 6.2 The Executive Response should provide clarity about what executive decisions are being made by Cabinet in respect of each recommendation. The Executive Response should also provide a target implementation date or timetable to clarify when each agreed scrutiny recommendation will be implemented.
- 6.3 The Executive Response presented to the Overview Board may include an Action Plan to summarise:
- the Cabinet decision,
 - the service(s) responsible for implementation,
 - any key stages of the implementation process with key dates, and
 - the target implementation date.

This will enable the Overview Board to monitor the implementation of agreed recommendations effectively.

6.4 The Cabinet Decisions made in respect of Overview and Scrutiny recommendations will be monitored and reviewed by the Overview Board to check on how they are being implemented, until each of the recommendations have been fully implemented.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 The Financial and resource implications of the recommendations are detailed in the Executive Summary of the report (pages 6 – 13).

8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 There are no legal implications relating to this report.

9. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

9.1 Overview and Scrutiny recommendations that are agreed by the Cabinet and/or full Council will become Cabinet Decisions and Council policy.

10. COUNCIL OBJECTIVES

10.1 This report links to the Council's Objectives of Improvement and One Community.

11. RISK MANAGEMENT INCLUDING HEALTH & SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS

11.1 The risk of not implementing the recommendations contained within the attached overview report is that this Council does not continue to improve the promotion of the democratic process.

12. CUSTOMER IMPLICATIONS

12.1 If the recommendations were approved and implemented, residents living in Bromsgrove District would benefit from improved involvement in local democracy.

13. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

13.1 There are no implications directly relating to this report for the Council's Equalities and Diversity Policies.

14. VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS, PROCUREMENT AND ASSET MANAGEMENT

14.1 There are no value for money implications directly relating to this report.

15. CLIMATE CHANGE, CARBON IMPLICATIONS AND BIODIVERSITY

15.1 None

16. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

16.1 None for the purpose of this report.

17. GOVERNANCE/PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

17.1 None for the purpose of this report.

18. COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS INCLUDING SECTION 17 OF CRIME AND DISORDER ACT 1998

18.1 None for the purpose of this report.

19. HEALTH INEQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

19.1 None for the purpose of this report.

20. LESSONS LEARNT

20.1 None for the purpose of this report.

21. COMMUNITY AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

21.1 Not relevant to this report.

22. OTHERS CONSULTED ON THE REPORT

Portfolio Holder	Yes
Chief Executive	Yes at CMT
Executive Director (S151 Officer)	Yes at CMT
Executive Director – Leisure, Cultural, Environmental and Community Services	Yes at CMT
Executive Director – Planning & Regeneration, Regulatory and Housing Services	Yes at CMT
Director of Policy, Performance and Partnerships	Yes at CMT
Head of Service	Yes
Head of Resources	Yes at CMT
Head of Legal, Equalities & Democratic Services	Yes

Corporate Procurement Team	No
----------------------------	----

23. WARDS AFFECTED

All Wards

24. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Community Involvement in Local Democracy Task Group Report

25. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

AUTHOR OF REPORT

Name: Michael Carr, Scrutiny Officer
E Mail: m.carr@bromsgrove.gov.uk
Tel: (01527) 881407