



Cabinet 2 December 2009

Report of the Policy Development Committee: Community Engagement Strategy (Dec 09/08)

1. The Council is committed to effective community engagement and the Committee considered a Strategy, which detailed how the Council will engage with its communities to improve local services, and to help local people to influence decisions.
2. The Government's empowerment agenda focuses on devolving power to local people, and this, together with the 'duty to involve' which councils have been required to comply with since 1 April 2009, mean that the Council has a duty to ensure that people have a greater opportunity to have their say. The Community Engagement Strategy therefore sets out the Council's commitment to ensuring effective engagement and consultation.
3. As part of the presentation of the Strategy, Members were advised that the Council had recently received funding to conduct three 'Ward Walks', to give 3 councillors the opportunity to reflect on how they undertook their local community leadership role. Councillors Cox, Everitt and Mrs Whittaker volunteered to have their wards 'walked', and Councillor Mrs Bone also expressed an interest, and officers would discuss a way forward with these Members.
4. It is **RECOMMENDED** that:-
 - (1) **the Community Engagement Strategy, attached to Report A338, be adopted;**
 - (2) **the Policy, Performance and Customer Service Manager, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Performance and Organisational Development, be given delegated authority to make any amendments to the policy in the light of changing guidance; and**
 - (3) **any minor typographical, factual and/or grammatical changes to the final document be agreed by the Policy, Performance and Customer Service Manager in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Performance and Organisational Development.**

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