

**NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**POLICY DEVELOPMENT GROUP – 1 OCTOBER 2014**

Title of report	<b>COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY</b>
Contacts	Councillor Alison Smith MBE 01530 835668 <a href="mailto:alison.smith@nwleicestershire.gov.uk">alison.smith@nwleicestershire.gov.uk</a>  Chief Executive 01530 454500 <a href="mailto:christine.fisher@nwleicestershire.gov.uk">christine.fisher@nwleicestershire.gov.uk</a>  Head of Community Services 01530 454832 <a href="mailto:john.richardson@nwleicestershire.gov.uk">john.richardson@nwleicestershire.gov.uk</a>
Purpose of report	To establish a task and finish group to review the Community Engagement Strategy 2012/15
Council Priorities	Value for Money Business and Jobs Homes and Communities Green Footprints Challenge
Implications:	n/a
Financial/Staff	To be delivered through existing budgets and staff
Link to relevant CAT	n/a
Risk Management	n/a
Equalities Impact Screening	n/a
Human Rights	n/a
Transformational Government	n/a
Comments of Head of Paid Service	Report is satisfactory
Comments of Section 151 Officer	Report is satisfactory

Comments of Monitoring Officer	Report is satisfactory
Consultees	n/a
Background papers	n/a
Recommendations	<b>THAT POLICY DEVELOPMENT GROUP NOMINATES UP TO FIVE MEMBERS OF THE GROUP FOR A COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY TASK AND FINISH GROUP</b>

## 1.0 BACKGROUND

1.1 In May 2012 Cabinet approved the Council's Community Engagement Strategy 2012-15 (attached as Appendix One) to define how the Council will work together to inform, consult and involve local people in decision making and improving public services.

1.2 At its meeting of 16 July 2014 Policy Development Group requested the following item be placed on the forward work plan for the group,

*“to create a working party to investigate the effectiveness of current methods of consultation measured against the aims of the Community Engagement Strategy and to suggest any improvements as required and to highlight areas where consultation works well”*

1.3 The proposed item could be a small or potentially large piece of work. In order to focus the work of the group it is proposed to consider the effectiveness of consultation methods against the aims of the Community Engagement Strategy by;

- Considering examples where consultation has worked well
- Considering examples where consultation has not been used as effectively as it could have
- Considering ways to improve consultation
- Recommend any improvements to existing practice
- Update and refresh the Community Engagement Strategy with any proposed changes for the period 2015-2018

1.4 It should be noted that some proposed changes or improvements may need testing for effectiveness prior to being included in the refreshed 2015-2018 Community Engagement Strategy. This will need to be a consideration of the task and finish group as part of any final recommendations.

## 2.0 NEXT STEPS

- 2.1 It is proposed to establish a task and finish group comprising of up to five members of the Policy Development Group and the following officers;

Karen Talbot – Stronger and Safer Communities Team Manager  
Wendy May - Community Focus Team Leader  
(meeting to be administered by Democratic Services)

- 2.2 The date of the first meeting of the task and finish group will now be discussed.

- 2.3 The proposed format would be as follows;

Meeting One	Elect a Member as Chair of the group Receive an officer report of where consultation has worked well and where it has not been used as effectively as it could have been Group discussion Agree areas to consider at the next meeting
Meeting Two	Receive a further officer report Consider any changes to be made to the Community Engagement Strategy for 2015-2018 and/or any appropriate actions to be undertaken
Meeting Three	Finalise any changes to the Community Engagement Strategy 2015-2018 and make recommendations to Policy Development Group highlighting any potential financial or operational resource implications

- 2.4 The task and finish group will report back to Policy Development Group who will then make recommendations for Cabinet to consider at the next available Cabinet meeting.