



Title of meeting: CABINET

Date of meeting: 3 June 2013

Subject: Response to Economic Development, Culture and Leisure Scrutiny Panel

Report by: Head of Customer, Community and Democratic Services, Head of City Development and Cultural Services and Head of Corporate Assets, Business and Standards

Wards affected: All

Key Decision: No

Full Council Decision: No

1. Summary

The Economic Development, Culture and Leisure Scrutiny Panel conducted a review into making community ownership work for Portsmouth and investigated ways in which the council can respond to the opportunities and challenges which community ownership offers.

2. Purpose of the report

The purpose of this report is to respond to the Economic Development, Culture and Leisure Scrutiny Panel's work.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 That the Panel is thanked for its work in undertaking the review.
- 3.2 That the Cabinet notes and supports the recommendations in the report.

4. Background

The Economic Development, Culture and Leisure Scrutiny Panel undertook its review to consider "making community ownership work for Portsmouth" from September 2012 to April 2013.

At its meeting on 27 September 2012 the Panel agreed scoping objectives for the review and subsequently amended the objectives at its meeting on 21 February 2013 meeting as follows:

- To define community ownership in Portsmouth by investigating different models of community ownership
- To understand the changing landscape of public asset management policy by considering:
 - Central government approach and response
 - The Localism Act and community rights
 - Local authority approach and response
 - A decade of community ownership in Portsmouth
- To understand the opportunities and challenges of community ownership for groups and communities and for the local authority
- To undertake a review of best practice by considering different approaches to community ownership and learning from experiences locally and elsewhere
- To be informed of the opportunities and challenges of the Community Right to Challenge

The Panel was chaired by Councillor Matthew Winnington and met formally on seven occasions. They received evidence from a number of Council officers, and external independent and voluntary sector contributors. They also visited Hilsea Lido.

5. Conclusion

The Panel's recommendations are listed in Section 3 of their report.

6. Reasons for the Recommendations

Based on current levels of interest recommendation 3.1 (relating to the establishment of a Community Ownership Unit) can be absorbed into 2013/14 budgets and existing resources by initially bringing together the unit 'virtually'. The vision at present is therefore to give a Community Ownership Unit a PCC web presence, named email box and to have a number of named individuals working together on an as needed basis with the lead being taken by the Community Engagement Manager. This virtual unit would therefore perform

the 'one-stop shop', 'sign-posting' and liaison roles envisaged by the panel and described in its recommendations.

The Panel's recommendations can therefore be supported and will be put into action by a number of Council officers from within existing budget and policy frameworks.

7. Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)

Where appropriate, the equality impacts of the report's individual recommendations will be assessed or reviewed by the relevant officers as they are implemented.

8. Legal Comments

Legal comments are incorporated in the body of the scrutiny report.

9. Head of Financial Services' comments

The financial implications are contained within the scrutiny report

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Signed by: