

Agenda Item No: 6

Report to: Overview and Scrutiny (Resources)

Date of Meeting: 31st May 2012

Report Title: Progress Update on the Scrutiny Review of the Council's Consultation Process (March 2010)

Report By: Jane Hartnell
Head of Corporate Services

Purpose of Report

To update Members on progress made in implementing the recommendations from the Scrutiny Review of the Council's Consultation process which were agreed by Committee in March 2010 and incorporated into the Participation and Communications Strategy and Action Plan.

Recommendation(s)

- 1. That Scrutiny Members comments on the attached progress report be welcomed.**

Reasons for Recommendations

That this progress update meets the Council's current commitments to openness and transparency and supports Council intentions to 'enable local people to hold us to account,' outlined in Priority Six of the current Corporate Plan.

Background

1. A Scrutiny Review to examine Hastings Borough Council's (HBC) Consultation process was included in the 2009/2010 Overview and Scrutiny annual work programme. The review began in August 2009, concluded in February 2010 and fell within the remit of the Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
2. The recommendations from the Review informed a refresh of the Council's Participation and Communications Strategy and the recommendations for action were embedded in the associated Action Plan.
3. The refreshed Participation and Communications Strategy and Action Plan was agreed by Cabinet in May 2011 following public consultation and the Resources O & S Committee have been monitoring progress against targets as part of the 2011/12 Quarterly performance Review reports.

Progress Update

4. The majority of targets in the 2010 Participation and Communications Strategy and Action Plan have been met. Appendix A sets out progress against each theme and action as agreed.
5. Members comments and questions are welcomed.

Wards Affected

Ashdown, Baird, Braybrooke, Castle, Central St. Leonards, Conquest, Gensing, Hollington, Maze Hill, Old Hastings, Ore, Silverhill, St. Helens, Tressell, West St. Leonards, Wishing Tree

Area(s) Affected

Central Hastings, East Hastings, North St. Leonards, South St. Leonards

Policy Implications

Please identify if this report contains any implications for the following:

Equalities and Community Cohesiveness	Yes
Crime and Fear of Crime (Section 17)	No
Risk Management	Yes
Environmental Issues	No
Economic/Financial Implications	Yes
Human Rights Act	No
Organisational Consequences	Yes
Local People's Views	Yes

Background Information

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Report Template v23.0

http://www.hastings.gov.uk/decisions_democracy/voting_petitioning_having_your_say/current_consultation/past_consultations/p_c_strategy/

http://www.hastings.gov.uk/static/meetings_docs/100311~osc_res~report04~Review_of_Councils_Consultation_process.htm

http://www.hastings.gov.uk/static/meetings_docs/100712~cabinet~report07~Overview_and_Scrutiny_Review_of_the_Councils_Consultation_Process_-_Management_Response.htm

Officer to Contact

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