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| <b>Cabinet</b> | <b>Agenda Item: 10</b> |
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| <b>Meeting Date</b>     | 2 September 2015                               |
| <b>Report Title</b>     | Local Engagement Forums June 2015              |
| <b>Portfolio Holder</b> | Cllr Mike Whiting, Cabinet Member for Localism |
| <b>SMT Lead</b>         | Pete Raine                                     |
| <b>Head of Service</b>  | Emma Wiggins                                   |
| <b>Lead Officer</b>     | Brooke Buttfield                               |
| <b>Key Decision</b>     | <b>No</b>                                      |
| <b>Classification</b>   | <b>Open</b>                                    |
| <b>Forward Plan</b>     | <b>Reference number:</b>                       |

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| <b>Recommendations</b> | 1. To note and consider the discussion and outcomes of the three Local Engagement Forums held during June 2015. |
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## **Purpose of Report and Executive Summary**

- 1.1 The report draws together notes of the discussion, outcomes and recommendations for Cabinet to consider following the recent Swale Local Engagement Forums (LEFs) of Sheppey (2 June 2015), Faversham (9 June 2015), and Sittingbourne (23 June 2015).
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to formalise the reporting relationship and encourage greater connectivity between the LEFs and Swale Borough Council's (SBC) Cabinet.
- 1.3 The report demonstrates to residents the potential of their forums to advise and influence local public services.
- 1.4 The next Swale Local Engagement Forums are being held during September 2015; Faversham (8 September 2015), Sheppey (15 September 2015), and Sittingbourne (29 September 2015). Cabinet is also asked to consider and suggest agenda items for future LEFs.

## **2 Background**

- 2.1 The LEFs are one of the key consultation methods for the Council, providing a route for residents as a group to advise on the shape and future of public services in the borough. This report summarises the You Said We Did reports that are compiled after each LEF, including discussion and outcomes from the LEF for noting and discussion by the SBC Cabinet. It is hoped that this report will foster a two way dialogue. This report summarises the You Said We Did reports which are available online: <http://www.swale.gov.uk/LEF/>.

### 3 Proposal

3.1 To note the outcomes from each meeting (shown in Table 1) and feedback to the LEF chairmen as appropriate.

3.2 To suggest topics as agenda items for future Local Engagement Forums.

Table 1

| <b>Sheppey LEF 2 June 2015 – Chairman Cllr Ken Pugh</b>  |
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| Issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Kent Police led a discussion about the current preparations taking place in advance of the usual increase in crime due to the busy summery period, particularly on the Isle of Sheppey.</li><li>• A representative from the South East Coast Ambulance Service raised several issues currently being faced within the service due to further increase of pressures on the NHS and the affect this has had on the services available in Swale.</li><li>• A representative from the Home and Communities Agency, gave a presentation and answered questions from residents and Members’ on Queenborough and Rushenden Regeneration.</li></ul>  |
| Outcomes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Following the discussion led by Kent Police, the community were reassured about the precautions in place with regards to the potential rise in crime, and were informed of the proactive detectives and research teams.</li><li>• Awareness was raised with the local community around the actions which are due to happen to improve the service and were also reassured by discussing the safety measures already in place which are helping to deliver an effective service.</li><li>• The community and members were made aware of the current situation in relation to future developments and also the work that has been completed, and also the work being completed by HCA/SBC.</li></ul> |
| <b>Faversham LEF 9 June 2015 – Chairman Cllr Anita Walker</b>  |
| Issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Kent Police began by discussing the recent incident taking place on the Brent Estate, outlining what Kent Police did about the situation, and how the issue is being resolved/followed up.</li><li>• James Freeman, Head of Development Services provided an update in relation to Faversham Housing Development and residents and members raised issues.</li><li>• An update was provided by James Freeman in relation to the Neighbourhood Plan and the current stage of assessment.</li></ul>   |
| Outcomes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Residents and members were reassured about the situation, and were also made aware of the support that has been made available following the problem.</li><li>• The issues raised by residents and members regarding housing development in Faversham were answered by James Freeman, and any unable to be answered were reported back in the You Said We Did, for further clarification at the next Faversham LEF.</li><li>• Residents and members were made aware of the current stage of assessment and were able to receive answers to any queries they had.</li></ul>   |
| <b>Sittingbourne LEF 23 June 2015 – Chairman Cllr Sue Gent</b>   |

Issues:

- Graeme Tuff, Greenspaces Manager, provided an update on the Kemsley Fishing Lakes after residents raised concerns.
- James Freeman, Head of Development Services, discussed the current stage of Sittingbourne Town Centre Regeneration.
- A representative from the South East Coast Ambulance Service raised several issues currently being faced within the service due to further increase of pressures on the NHS and the affect this has had on the services available in Swale.

Outcomes:

- Residents were informed that policing of the area has increased and the environmental response team have also provided additional patrols which may increase further in the future.
- Residents and members were informed of the current stage of the regeneration and were able to raise questions with regards to particularly areas of development due to take place.
- Awareness was raised with the local community around the actions which are due to happen to improve the service and were also reassured by discussing the safety measures already in place which are helping to deliver an effective service.

## 4 Alternative Options

- 4.1 Not applicable as this is an update report for noting and consideration.

## 5 Consultation Undertaken or Proposed

- 5.1 The public were given the opportunity at each LEF to question and challenge public sector representatives about the issues discussed at the meeting.

## 6 Implications

| Issue                                 | Implications  |
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| Corporate Plan                        | The LEFs contribute towards the SBC corporate priority of Embracing Localism as they are one of the key projects for empowering local residents. In particular they contribute to the aims of enabling members to champion communities and improving local consultation and engagement. |
| Financial, Resource and Property      | LEFs administered through officer resource.   |
| Legal and Statutory                   | <i>None.</i>  |
| Crime and Disorder                    | Residents can engage directly with senior police officers at the meetings.  |
| Risk Management and Health and Safety | <i>None.</i>  |
| Equality and                          | One of the aims of the You Said We Did is to report the issues  |

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| Diversity      | raised and questions asked at the meeting as accurately as possible, so as not to discriminate against anyone who raises an issue at the meeting. The reports remain live and residents can challenge it they are incorrect. If the amendment is approved, they are then updated on the online version of the report. |
| Sustainability | <i>None.</i>  |

## **7 Appendices**

7.1 There are no additional documents to be published with this report.

## **8 Background Papers**

8.1 [LEF Terms of Reference](#)