

Cabinet	
----------------	--

Meeting Date	3 February 2016
Report Title	Local Engagement Forums December 2015
Portfolio Holder	Cllr Mike Whiting, Cabinet Member for Localism, Sport, Culture and Heritage
SMT Lead	Kathryn Carr
Head of Service	Emma Wiggins
Lead Officer	Brooke Buttfeld
Key Decision	No
Classification	Open
Forward Plan	Reference number:

Recommendations	1. To note and consider the discussion and responses provided at the three Local Engagement Forums held during December 2015.
------------------------	---

Purpose of Report and Executive Summary

- 1.1 The report draws together notes of the discussion, responses and recommendations for Cabinet to consider following the recent Swale Local Engagement Forums (LEFs) of Faversham (2 December 2015), Sheppey (8 December 2015), and Sittingbourne (15 December 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 next Swale Local Engagement Forums are being held during February and March 2016; Faversham (9 February 2016), Sheppey (8 March 2016), and Sittingbourne (15 March 2016).

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 responses from the LEF for noting and discussion by the SBC Cabinet. This report summarises the You Said We Did reports which are available online: <http://www.swale.gov.uk/LEF/>.
- 2.2 Following the recent request for the Policy and Development Review Committee to conduct a review of the effectiveness of Swale Borough Council's Local Engagement Forums, the recommendation from PDRC to Cabinet is that the

Local Engagement Forums cease in their current form and that a consultation is undertaken with the public on changing the arrangements.

3 Proposal

- 3.1 To note and consider the discussion and responses provided at the three Local Engagement Forums held during December 2015 (shown in Table 1).

Table 1

Faversham LEF 2 December 2015 – Chairman Cllr Anita Walker
<p>Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kent Police led a discussion about the current work taking place to target speed problems in the local area. Kent Police have purchased a speed watch monitoring system which PCSO's have been proactively using to educate drivers on speed. • Christy Holden, Head of Strategic Commissioning at KCC, outlined the work carried out in relation to local residential care homes and answered questions from the public. • Mark Radford, Director of Corporate Services, ran a short consultation with attendees on SBC's Review of Local Engagement Forums. • Mark Radford, Director of Corporate Services, provided an update on the Local Plan.
<p>Responses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following the discussion led by Kent Police, the community were updated on the progress of the scheme and were informed of how to get involved and take ownership. • The issues raised by residents and members regarding the potential closure of Kiln Court were answered by Christy Holden, and the public were informed how to submit their views through the formal consultation methods. • Residents and members were informed of imminent formal consultation and were able to share their views on the LEFs as they currently are, and to suggest any improvements for the future. • The community and members were made aware of the current progress in relation to the SBC Local Plan and were informed of future hearing session dates.
Sheppey LEF 8 December 2015 – Chairman Cllr Ken Pugh
<p>Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christy Holden, Head of Strategic Commissioning at KCC, outlined the work carried out in relation to local residential care homes and answered questions from the public. • Representatives from the Environment Agency provide a short update on Coastal Erosion and flooding, particularly at the eastern end of the Isle of Sheppey. • Abdool Kara, SBC Chief Executive, ran a short consultation with the attendees on SBC's Review of Local Engagement Forums. • Abdool Kara, SBC Chief Executive, provided an update on the Local Plan.

<p>Responses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The issues raised by residents and members regarding the potential closure of Kiln Court were answered by Christy Holden, and the public were informed how to submit their views through the formal consultation methods. • The public were informed and reassured on the work being carried out by both Environment Agency and SBC to prevent situation becoming a serious issue. • Residents and members were informed of imminent formal consultation and were able to share their views on the LEFs as they currently are, and to suggest any improvements for the future. • The community and members were made aware of the current progress in relation to the SBC Local Plan and were informed of future hearing session dates.
<p>Sittingbourne LEF 15 December 2015 – Chairman Cllr Sue Gent</p>
<p>Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brooke Butfield, ECS Coordinator, ran a short consultation with the attendees on SBC's Review of Local Engagement Forums. • Kathryn Carr, Director of Regeneration, provided an update on the Local Plan. • Kathryn Carr, Director of Regeneration, provided an update on Sittingbourne Town Centre Regeneration, including the proposals for the relocation of Sittingbourne market. • A discussion took place around the changes to particular bus services run by Chalkwell which have an impact on the local villages.
<p>Responses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residents and members were informed of imminent formal consultation and were able to share their views on the LEFs as they currently are, and to suggest any improvements for the future. • The community and members were made aware of the current progress in relation to the SBC Local Plan and were informed of the process following the final session being held the following day (16th December). • The questions raised by residents and members regarding Sittingbourne Regeneration were answered by Kathryn Carr, and the public were informed of the current progress in relation to the project. • The forum received an update on the changes which have occurred and the impact caused as a result of the changes, and also discussed ways of collaboratively working to solve the problems arising.

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 purpose of these meetings is to engage with/consult the public and provide an opportunity for residents to question and challenge public sector representatives about the issues discussed at the meeting.

- 5.2 Following the recent request for the Policy and Development Review Committee to conduct a review of the effectiveness of Swale Borough Council's Local Engagement Forums, the recommendation from PDRC to Cabinet is that the Local Engagement Forums cease in their current form and that a consultation is undertaken with the public on changing the arrangements.
- 5.3 Attendees of the December Local Engagement Forums were advised that both the LEFs and Rural Forums are currently under review and were asked to share their views on the forums as they currently are and to suggest any improvements for future engagement. A wider consultation was launched on Friday 18 December 2015 for 6 weeks, closing on Friday 29 January 2016. The feedback received will then form a report which will be presented at General Purposes Committee on 2 March 2016 and Full Council on 17/18 May 2016.

6 Implications

Issue	Implications
Corporate Plan	The LEFs contribute towards the SBC corporate priority of a Borough to be proud of as they are one of the key projects for empowering local residents. However, following the recent request for the Policy and Development Review Committee to conduct a review of the effectiveness of Swale Borough Council's Local Engagement Forums, the recommendation from PDRC to Cabinet is that the Local Engagement Forums cease in their current form and that a consultation is undertaken with the public on changing the arrangements.
Financial, Resource and Property	<i>None identified at this stage.</i>
Legal and Statutory	<i>None identified at this stage.</i>
Crime and Disorder	Residents can engage directly with senior police officers at the meetings.
Sustainability	<i>None identified at this stage.</i>
Health and Wellbeing	<i>None identified at this stage.</i>
Risk Management and Health and Safety	<i>None identified at this stage.</i>
Equality and Diversity	One of the aims of the You Said We Did is to report the issues 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.

7 Appendices

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

8 Background Papers

8.1 [LEF Terms of Reference](http://www.swale.gov.uk/lef-terms-of-reference/) - <http://www.swale.gov.uk/lef-terms-of-reference/>