

<b>Cabinet</b>	<b>Agenda Item: 8</b>
<b>Meeting Date</b>	10 September 2014
<b>Report Title</b>	Local Engagement Forums June and July 2014
<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>
<b>Recommendations</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To note and consider the discussion and outcomes of the three Local Engagement Forums held during June and July 2014.</li> <li>2. To suggest topics as agenda items for future Local Engagement Forums.</li> </ol>

## **1. Purpose of Report and Executive Summary**

- 1.1 This report draws together notes of the discussion, outcomes and recommendations for Cabinet to consider following the recent Swale Local Engagement Forums (LEFs) of Faversham (1 July 2014), Sheppey (10 June 2014), and Sittingbourne (17 June 2014).
- 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 the forums to advise and influence local public services.
- 1.4 The next Swale Local Engagement Forums are being held during September 2014; Sheppey (23 September 2014), Sittingbourne (16 September 2014), and Faversham (9 September 2014). Cabinet is also asked to consider and suggest agenda items for these and 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.

- 2.2 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 anticipated that this report will foster a two-way dialogue. The You Said We Did reports are attached as Appendices I, II and III.

### 3. Proposals

- 3.1 Members are invited to note the outcomes from each meeting (shown in Table 1 below) and feed back to the LEF chairmen as appropriate.

**Table 1: Summary of recent round of LEFs**

<b>Faversham LEF 1 July 2014 (Chairman Cllr Anita Walker)</b>
<p><b>Matters discussed:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Kent Police led a discussion about the continuing need to target those areas most affected by crime in Faversham, specifically fires, as well as the ongoing support with the community, working with partners to focus on helping vulnerable people.</li> <li>▪ A representative from PS Breastfeeding CIC raised the issue that the breastfeeding services available which provide information and support to the community needs to become more common knowledge. It was identified that KCC work with various Health Boards in relation to breastfeeding.</li> <li>▪ Jeff Kitson, Parking Services Manager, and Brian Planner, Head of Service Delivery, gave a presentation and answered questions from residents and Members on parking enforcement, enabling the community and Members to become aware of the legalities related to parking, and also the work completed by SBC’s Civil Enforcement Officers.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Issues to follow up:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Following the discussion led by Kent Police, SBC reported that the plans for the new junction on A251 went to the Joint Transportation Board Meeting and a roundabout was the recommended option. This recommendation is to be reported to Kent Highways, KCC. Liaison with an engineer to provide a full update at the next LEF.</li> <li>▪ Further to the conversation relating to breastfeeding, SBC suggested communication between Cllr Ken Pugh, Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Health, and PS Breastfeeding to examine how SBC can assist with communication about the service.</li> <li>▪ An issue was raised regarding lack of presence from Civil Enforcement Officers in rural areas. Jeff Kitson asked that he be notified of any rural areas which do not seem to be fully resourced.</li> </ul>
<b>Sheppey LEF 10 June 2014 (Chairman Cllr Patricia Sandle)</b>
<p><b>Matters discussed:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The KCC ‘Safe and Sensible Street Lighting’ project was discussed, and residents</li> </ul>

and Members' raised a number of questions and issues.

- A representative from PS Breastfeeding CIC raised the issue that the breastfeeding services available which provide information and support to the community needs to become more common knowledge. It was identified that KCC work with various Health Boards in relation to breastfeeding.
- Jeff Kitson, Parking Services Manager, and Brian Planner, Head of Service Delivery, gave a presentation and answered questions from residents and Members on parking enforcement, enabling the community and Members to become aware of the legalities related to parking, and also the work completed by SBC's Civil Enforcement Officers.
- Amicus Horizon provided an update on their current projects, and the progress each is making.
- 'The Green Doctor' from the Sustainable Sheppey project provided an update for the community on the services available.

**Issues to follow up:**

- Further to the conversation relating to breastfeeding, SBC suggested communication between Cllr Ken Pugh, Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Health, and PS Breastfeeding to examine how SBC can assist with communication about the service.
- The issue regarding road surfacing along Minster Broadway was raised, and SBC confirmed that it is currently being reviewed at various meetings.

**Sittingbourne LEF 17 June 2014 (Chairman Cllr Mike Whiting)**

**Matters discussed:**

- Kent Fire and Rescue Service discussed the ever increasing issue of irresponsible parking, leading to emergency vehicles being unable to reach the scene of a fire.
- Kent Police informed the community of the recently employed Community Sergeants. The introduction of Community Sergeants has enabled proactive policing throughout Swale.
- A representative from PS Breastfeeding CIC raised the issue that the breastfeeding services available which provide information and support to the community needs to become more common knowledge. It was identified that KCC work with various Health Boards in relation to breastfeeding.
- Jeff Kitson, Parking Services Manager, and Brian Planner, Head of Service Delivery, gave a presentation and answered questions from residents and Members on parking enforcement, enabling the community and Members to become aware of the legalities related to parking, and also the work completed by SBC's Civil Enforcement Officers.
- Pete Raine, Director of Regeneration, gave an update and answered questions from residents and Members on progress with the planned regeneration of Sittingbourne.

**Issues to follow up:**

- Following the discussion led by Kent Fire and Rescue Service, liaison will take place between the residents group, Swale Borough Council, and Kent Fire and Rescue Service to identify a solution.
- Further to the conversation relating to breastfeeding, SBC suggested communication between Cllr Ken Pugh, Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Health, and PS Breastfeeding to examine how SBC can assist with communication about the service.

3.2 Members are also invited to suggest topics as agenda items for future Local Engagement Forums.

## 4. Alternative Options

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

## 5. Consultation Undertaken or Proposed

5.1 LEFs are a consultative forum for the public to have the opportunity to question and challenge public sector representatives about the issues discussed at the meeting.

## 6. Implications

Issue	Implications
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	None identified.
Legal and Statutory	None identified.
Crime and Disorder	Residents can engage directly with senior police officers at the meetings.
Sustainability	The Sustainable Sheppey 'Green Doctor' project was discussed at the Sheppey LEF.
Health & Wellbeing	The importance of breastfeeding and the availability of the PS Breastfeeding CIC service was discussed at all the LEFs.
Risk Management and Health and	None identified.

Safety	
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 The following documents are to be published with this report and form part of the report:

- Appendix I: [Faversham LEF, 1 July 2014 – You Said We Did](#)
- Appendix II: [Sheppey LEF, 10 June 2014 – You Said We Did](#)
- Appendix III: [Sittingbourne LEF, 17 June 2014 – You Said We Did](#)

## 8. Background Papers

8.1 [LEF Terms of Reference](#)