

Report to: Communities Scrutiny Committee
Date of Meeting: 12th April 2012
Lead Member / Officer: Corporate Director Learning & Communities
Report Author: Business Transformation Project Co-ordinator
Title: Getting Closer to the Community

1. What is the report about?

The report is intended to provide the Communities Scrutiny Committee with information on the progress of work undertaken by the Getting Closer to the Community Programme Board.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

To provide an update on the progress of the programme since the last Communities Scrutiny Committee on the 27th November 2011.

3. What are the Recommendations?

That the Committee discusses the contents of report, provides observations and continues to support the 'Getting Closer to the Community' updated Action Plan. (Appendix 1 attached).

4. Report details.

4.1 The scrutiny committee on the 27th November resolved as follows:-

RESOLVED – *that the Committee:-*

(a) receives and notes the contents of the report;

(b) continues to support the on-going work with respect to 'Getting Closer to the Community' action plan and the priority areas of:-

- Representation and Engagement – How to engage with communities.*
- Service Delivery – Develop the right culture and attitudes.*
- Community Development – Community, Enrichment and Empowerment;*

(c) members' comments and concerns as outlined in the discussion are considered;

and

(d) monitors the progress achieved in implementing the action plan at its meeting in April 2012.

- 4.2 The Action Plan retains the three priority areas, although the actions have now been amended to reflect the comments and the concern of members raised at the meeting in October 2011, including the CRM and appropriate action has been taken to address those concerns. The comments around the need for rural regeneration have also been considered and the action plan now includes an action to develop a structure for improved relations with the business community. Rural members have also been asked to confirm the priority areas for development within their areas. In addition a number of actions are now complete and have concluded and a number of additional actions and work streams have been added to the plan.
- 4.3 The Programme Board continues to meet bi-monthly and the appointment of a new Programme Manager has led to an increase in the pace of developing, refining and delivering the action plan
- 4.3 A further meeting of the Programme Board is scheduled for the 4th April

5. How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Priorities?

The Closer to the Communities Programme Board continues to underpin the Council's Statement of Intent, 2009 and Vision that by 2012 'Denbighshire will be an excellent Authority providing high quality and efficient services to all its citizens, communities'.

6. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?

The Getting Closer to the Community Programme Board will have access to additional financial resources to promote the delivery of project as identified through the Town Plans

A number of the projects and work streams referred to in the action plan will be serviced by community revenue and capital funding

Separate funding is assigned to the Member Area Groups

There is a separate budget for Participatory budgeting

The energy Brokerage Scheme has separate allocated funding for feasibility work

7. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?

- 7.1 There is a corporate risk that a failure to consult and engage effectively with communities and work with partners to tackle key priorities will adversely affect the Council's Corporate Plan and result in lower resident satisfaction levels.

- 7.2 Unstructured engagement may result in inefficient service delivery, as services are shaped to meet the needs of local people, and potentially harm the reputation of the Council.
- 7.3 That the Council identifies the correct needs and wants of the community before establishing measurable outcomes and incorporating them into the business planning and performance management processes.

8. Power to make the Decision

N/A

Contact:

Programme and Project Team

Tel: 01824 706006