

ENVIRONMENT, CULTURE AND COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL
16 MARCH 2009

WORKING GROUPS UPDATE REPORT
(Lead Working Group Members)

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report sets out the progress achieved to date by the Working Groups of the Panel reviewing waste and recycling, street cleaning, the Borough's Housing Strategy, implementation of the Supporting People programme, the Community Arts Strategy and implementation of the Housing and Council Tax Benefit Improvement Plan.

2 SUGGESTED ACTION

- 2.1 **That this update report be noted.**

3 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

'Waste Not Want Not' - Review of Waste and Recycling

- 3.1 The draft report of the Working Group which reviewed waste and recycling appears elsewhere on the agenda for the Panel's consideration.

'A Clean Sweep' – Review of Street Cleaning

- 3.2 The Executive agreed its response to the report of the review of street cleaning at its meeting on 16 December 2008. The majority of the recommendations in the report were accepted and are being actioned. Part of the Working Group's role has been to contribute towards the development of an Environmental Amenity Action Plan 2008-2011 and an update in respect of the implementation of the Plan is expected at the Panel's next meeting.

Housing Strategy

- 3.3 The purpose of this Working Group is to respond to the consultation in respect of Bracknell Forest's draft Housing Strategy, a substantive strategic document relating to housing priorities across the Borough. The Working Group has met on five occasions and provided detailed comments and suggested changes to the draft Housing Strategy. The next meeting of the Working Group has been arranged for 25 March 2009.

Supporting People Programme

- 3.4 The Working Group monitoring the implementation of the Supporting People programme submitted its progress update report to the last meeting of the Panel. The Working Group was very pleased with the progress that had been made over the past two years. However, it felt that the future re-tendering of the contracts of a number of service providers and the loss of ring fenced funding would provide the

Supporting People programme with significant challenges over the next year or two. Therefore the Panel agreed that the Working Group continue to monitor the programme and bring update reports back to the Panel. The next update report is expected in autumn 2009.

Community Arts Strategy

- 3.5 This Strategy appears elsewhere on the agenda for the Panel's consideration.

Housing and Council Tax Benefit Working Group

- 3.6 The Housing and Council Tax Benefit Working Group has been formed since the Panel's last meeting to review the implementation of the Housing and Council Tax Improvement Plan. It has met on two occasions and the scope of the review has been agreed. Further meetings have been arranged for 9 and 10 March 2009 when the Working Group will be visiting the Benefits Service to explore the benefits processing system and meeting the relevant Executive Member.

Background Papers

None

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