

## **CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE – 24 NOVEMBER 2006**

### **ESTABLISHMENT OF A COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

#### **REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

##### **Purpose**

1. The purpose of this report is to enable the Committee to consider proposals for the establishment of a Community Engagement Scrutiny Committee and to put forward a recommendation to the County Council.

##### **Background**

2. At the meeting of the County Council on 24 May 2006, in the course of considering re-structuring of scrutiny committees in the Authority, members expressed support for setting up a new committee to consider the emerging proposals for community engagement and community forums.

##### **Consideration by the Scrutiny Commission**

3. The Scrutiny Commission at its meeting on 15 November 2006 considered a report setting out the current position and proposed terms of reference for the Community Engagement Scrutiny Committee (Appendix 1).
4. In considering the report, the Scrutiny Commission suggested that the terms of reference be amended to include reference to:
  - (i) the County Council's relationship with District Council's;
  - (ii) how public access to members and the decision making process could be improved.
5. Set out below is a revised version of the proposed terms of reference which have been amended to reflect the views of the Scrutiny Commission:
  - (a) To provide a point of reference for considering the role of the elected member as champion of the local community and make recommendations as to good practice.
  - (b) To review and scrutinise the development of the neighbourhood engagement policy
  - (c) To review and scrutinise the implementation and operation of community forums and other proposals for empowering local

communities, including the County Council's relationship with district, parish and town councils.

- (d) To review and scrutinise the development of policies and procedures to ensure a flexible response to local needs of citizens and communities, including improved access for citizens to the County Council's decision making and scrutiny processes.

### **Recommendation**

- 6. The Committee is asked to determine what recommendations it wishes to put forward to the County Council with regard to the establishment and terms of reference of a Community Engagement Scrutiny Committee.

### **Equal opportunities Implications**

- 7. There are no equal opportunity implications arising from this report.

### **Circulation under Sensitive Issues**

- 8. None

### **Officer to Contact**

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