

**REPORT TO:** Community Planning Implementation Group

**MEETING DATE:** 13 November 2006

**BY:** Chief Executive

**SUBJECT:** Community Engagement Strategy

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## **1 PURPOSE**

- 1.1 To seek the endorsement of CPIG for a proposal to draft East Lothian's Community Engagement Strategy 2006-2008 based on implementing the National Standards for Community Engagement (NSCE).

## **2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 That CPIIG endorses the proposal set out in this paper.

## **3 BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 CPIG will recall that ELCPP is committed to developing a strategy for community engagement in the Regeneration Outcome Agreement 2005-2008 and the Community Learning and Development Strategy 2004-2007.
- 3.2 COSLA has also commended members to implement the National Standards on Community Engagement, which were produced with extensive participation from communities and service providers across Scotland and published in 2005.
- 3.3 There are already many initiatives developing community engagement in East Lothian in localised community planning and at service level. Some examples are: Prestonpans Local Service Management Group, Tranent Social Inclusion Partnership (TSIP), Community Learning and Development (CLD) devolved management/ownership of community centres, Tenants Participation Strategy/Tenants and Residents Panels, Involvement in Schools/Pupil Councils and Parent Forums (Education), Patient Involvement via Public Partnership Forums (CHP), Lothian & Borders Police CAPP initiative etc.

3.4 Work can now begin to draft an umbrella strategy for community engagement in East Lothian which builds on best practice and learning from existing initiatives and from those in other areas of Scotland and beyond.

3.5 Proposal for action:

- i. Oct: ELCPP/ELLP sets up a short-life working group to oversee the process.
- ii. 9 Nov: Half day workshop with representatives of CPIG agencies/organisations to produce a brief outline strategy and action plan for discussion with communities and the ELCPP/ELLP, 9.30-1.00 with lunch facilitated by ELLP and CLD.
- iii. Nov: Design of mapping tool based on the National Standards for Community Engagement
- iv. 11 Dec: Workshops at ELCPP/ELLP Annual Joint Conference (on the outline strategy and mapping).
- v. Jan-Mar 07: Development of the outline strategy and action plan via discussions with communities and individuals and continuation of mapping.
- vi. Apr 2007: Publication of the final revised community engagement strategy and action plan.

#### **4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 The intention behind this initiative is to ensure that local people are fully involved in determining the way services are provided (planned and delivered) across East Lothian, whilst developing appropriate skills in both communities and service providers and allocating the necessary resources.

#### **5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 Financial - Communities Scotland will 3 consultancy days towards the development of this strategy

5.2 Personnel- CPP will require to allocate some staff time along with task force time to coordinate and oversee the design and implementation of the strategy and action plan.

- ELLP can provide 8 staff days until end Nov 2006

5.3 Other- None.

## 6 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 6.1 Series of reports on Localised Community Planning Pilot, 22 April 2004, and 18 May 2005
- 6.2 Regeneration Outcome Agreement 2005-2008, Section 4 Community Engagement, ELCPP, Sept. 2005
- 6.3 Building a Learning Culture in East Lothian: Community Learning and Development Strategy 2004-07, engaging with communities in a full partners relationship as a priority for successful community planning processes, ELCPP/ELLP, Sept 2005 and Action Plan No. 5, 2005-06.
- 6.4 National Standards for Community Engagement with COSLA foreword commending these to members, Communities Scotland, May 2005.

<b>AUTHOR'S NAME</b>	Veronica Campanile
<b>DESIGNATION</b>	Strategy and Planning Co-ordinator, ELLP
<b>CONTACT INFO</b>	0131 653 4065
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