

Cabinet

15 July 2014

A Framework for Working with our Citizens and Communities

Carole Burgoyne (Strategic Director for People) submitted a report providing a draft new framework of working with Plymouth's citizens and communities to –

- (a) listen and respond to the Council's customers around the provision of services and city wide agendas; and
- (b) create a more sustainable model of engagement whereby citizens take control of their own communities.

Although Plymouth had had some success of working with, and within, communities, feedback indicated that engagement was fragmented, partial and community empowerment activity did not address the fundamental issue of enabling citizens to be in control of their own communities. The new framework aimed to address these shortcomings.

Councillor Peter Smith (Deputy Leader) introduced the proposals.

Stuart Palmer (Assistant Director for Homes and Communities) and Hannah Daw (Policy and Business Planning Officer) attended the meeting for this item.

Councillor Evans (Council Leader) reported that pre decision scrutiny by the Your Plymouth Scrutiny Panel had asked Cabinet to delay the decision to adopt the framework pending a co-operative review being undertaken. However, this would prevent work with partners and communities on developing the detail of how this would work in practice.

Alternative options considered and the reasons for the decision –

As set out in the report.

Agreed that –

- (1) Council adopts the co-operative engagement principles and framework as the basis for a different model of working with and supporting citizens and communities in Plymouth. These should be applied when anyone on behalf of the Council plans, develops, delivers or supports service and community engagement activity;
- (2) the Deputy Leader of the Council and officers work with members of the Your Plymouth Scrutiny Panel on a co-operative review to explore:
 - (a) how the framework would best roll out at a local level, including the potential for development of the role of ward councillors;

- (b) how existing community organisations including Economic Development Trusts could hold and deploy neighbourhood budgets to commission local services such as youth services or health projects;
 - (c) how public health funding could be incorporated and deployed into neighbourhood budgets so that communities could commission projects and initiatives to tackle highly localised health issues and improve health and well being;
- (3) there is a community consultation exercise to receive feedback on the framework which will inform the implementation planning and an Equality Impact Assessment;
- (4) our Council works with key public, private and voluntary sector partners in the city to jointly coordinate the development of practical responses to the framework, sharing resources and delivering collectively.