

**Report of Head of Scrutiny and Member Development**

**Report to Scrutiny Board (Safer and Stronger Communities)**

**Date: 16<sup>th</sup> May 2013**

**Subject: Strengthening the Council's relationship with local Parish and Town Councils – draft scrutiny report**

|                                                                                                                                              |                              |                                        |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| Are specific electoral Wards affected?<br>If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):                                                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |
| Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?                                                              | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |
| Is the decision eligible for Call-In?                                                                                                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |
| Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?<br>If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number:<br>Appendix number: | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |

**Summary of main issues**

1. In June 2012, the Executive Board Member for Neighbourhoods, Planning and Support Services made a request for Scrutiny to conduct a review of the Council's relationship with local Parish and Town Councils and explore how this can be strengthened. In recognising that relationships between local councils and Area Committees in particular are not consistent across the city, the Scrutiny Board agreed to primarily focus its review around strengthening such relationships in the future.
2. This review has now concluded and the Board is in a position to report on its findings and recommendations resulting from the evidence gathered. The Board's draft report is attached for Members' consideration.
3. Scrutiny Board Procedure Rule 13.2 states that "where a Scrutiny Board is considering making specific recommendations it shall invite advice from the appropriate Director(s) prior to finalising its recommendations. The Director shall consult with the appropriate Executive Member before providing any such advice. The detail of that advice shall be reported to the Scrutiny Board and considered before the report is finalised". Any advice received will be reported at the Board's meeting for consideration, before the Board finalises its report.
4. Once the Board publishes its final report, the appropriate Director(s) will be asked to formally respond to the Scrutiny Board's recommendations within three months.

## **Recommendations**

5. Members are asked to consider and agree the Board's report following its review aimed at strengthening the Council's relationship with local Parish and Town Councils.

## **Background documents<sup>1</sup>**

6. None used

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<sup>1</sup> The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.