

<b>OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>
<b>6 FEBRUARY 2013</b>
<b>NEIGHBOURHOOD WORKING STRUCTURES</b>
<b>REPORT OF HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES</b>

**1. Purpose**

To hear about the Council's current approach to neighbourhood and locality working and how this supports achievement of the Council's objectives and facilitates effective ward councillor and citizen engagement.

**2. Action required**

**That the Committee use the information received at the meeting to inform questioning and discussion to scrutinise the effectiveness of the Council's neighbourhood working structures, particularly in respect of facilitating effective ward councillor and citizen engagement.**

**3. Background information**

- 3.1 At its meeting in October 2012 the Committee decided to add scrutiny of the effectiveness of new neighbourhood working structures to its programme for scrutiny.
- 3.2 The new model of locality working has now been in place for 6 months and therefore this is an appropriate time to review its implementation and the extent to which it has been effective in achieving its aims. The Committee is specifically interested in how effective the new approach has been in improving effective ward councillor and citizen engagement. This arose out of concern raised by the Committee earlier in the year about consultation and engagement at an early stage with ward councillors and citizens about decisions regarding local communities. The Committee expressed its concerns to the Director for Neighbourhood Services. In his response to the Committee, the Director for Neighbourhood Services referred to the role of the new neighbourhood working structure in facilitating ward councillor engagement.
- 3.3 At the meeting the Head of City Services will give a presentation (attached at Appendix A) about neighbourhood working structures and there will then be opportunity for questions and discussion.
- 3.4 The Committee had also intended to consider community cohesion issues alongside neighbourhood working structures at this meeting. Unfortunately the Head of Community Cohesion and Engagement is unable to attend this meeting and therefore the issue will be deferred to a later date.

**4. List of attached information**

The following information can be found in the appendices to this report:

**Appendix 1** – ‘Neighbourhood Working Structures’ Presentation from Nottingham City Council Head of City Services

**5. Background papers, other than published works or those disclosing exempt or confidential information**

Letter to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee from Nottingham City Council Director for Neighbourhood Services dated 29 June 2012

**6. Published documents referred to in compiling this report**

Minutes of Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings held on 7 March 2012 and 3 October 2012.

**7. Wards affected**

Citywide

**8. Contact information**

Contact Colleague

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