

## AREA COMMITTEE COMMUNITY MEETINGS – TOPICS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

### 1. Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to ask Members to agree topics and to remit to the Service Manager Community Services (Area Framework) Annandale and Eskdale to schedule suitable dates for the Annandale and Eskdale Area Committee Community meetings up to April 2012.

### 2. Recommendations

Members are asked to:-

2.1 consider the suggested topics for the Annandale & Eskdale Area Committee Community meetings from January – April 2012 and agree 2 topics as detailed in paragraph 3.7; and

2.2 agree to remit to the Service Manager Community Services (Area Framework) Annandale and Eskdale to schedule suitable dates for the meetings up to April 2012.

### 3. Considerations

3.1 It was agreed by Full Council in October 2010 that Area Committees would hold meetings to engage with the public as part of the Area Framework and that Community Engagement would be founded on the National Standards for Community Engagement and good governance principles. The Area Committee on 15 June 2011 received a paper on the 'Remit and Delegations of Area Committees' which also highlighted the Area Committee's role in community engagement.

3.2 It was agreed to discharge the Community Engagement role of Area Committees through a planned programme of evening meetings which would be founded on community and stakeholder engagement in accordance with the National Standards for Community Engagement and good governance principles. These meetings would also take the form of community meetings and seminars in order to maximise the opportunity for community engagement at area level.

3.3 At the meeting on 15 June 2011 it was agreed that a report on options available to organise and deliver Community meetings at an area level would be submitted in early course.

3.4 At the meeting of the Area Committee on 21 September 2011 Members agreed the format and process for engaging with community through Area Committee Community meetings (**Appendix 1**) and that the views of the Community and Members on future themes and topics would be captured at the first Area Committee Community meeting. It was also noted there was a need to target audiences effectively for Area Committee Community Meetings and that parameters required to be set in advance of meetings to ensure all stakeholders were clear on what could be influenced and achieved.

3.5 To this end, a press release was published in October 2011 requesting suggestions for topics for meetings and a further request was sent to community contacts in November 2011 with examples of the types of topics appropriate such as Leisure & Sport provision, Broadband access, Housing, Regeneration, Education and Transport.

3.6 Members will recall that it was agreed at the Area Committee meeting of 21 September 2011 to schedule a Community meeting for the consultation on the Local Development Plan. This meeting has been provisionally arranged for 22 February 2012, 6.30pm, Lockerbie Town Hall. Members and the public will have the opportunity to comment on sites identified for development and changes to development policy.

3.7 Area Committee Community meetings may only be arranged during January - April 2012 due to Local Government Elections taking place in May and, in order to ensure sufficient time for dissemination of information and publicity, a further two meetings may be scheduled. Suggested topics for meetings submitted by Elected Members and members of the community to date for consideration and agreement are set out below and further suggestions will be requested/submitted from both Members and the community at the meeting. Members are asked to consider the suggestions and agree 2 topics. It is recommended that the arrangement of the dates, times and venues of the meetings are remitted to the Service Manager Community Services (Area Framework) Annandale and Eskdale.

#### **Suggested Topics to date**

- Leisure & Sport provision,
- Broadband access,
- Housing, Regeneration,
- Education
- Transport
- Winter Maintenance
- Grounds Maintenance
- Traffic Speed, 20mph speed limits, Road Safety
- Community Health Services – joint meeting with NHS including lack of service in Eastriggs

#### **4. Governance Assurance**

This is a procedural report and did not require any consultation.

#### **5. Impact Assessment**

As the report does not propose a change in policy, the formal adoption of a plan, policy or strategy it is not necessary to complete an Impact Assessment.

#### **Author(s)**

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**Approved by**

NAME	DESIGNATION	SIGNATURE
Harry Hay	Head of Improvement and Engagement	

**Appendices**

Appendix 1 Format and Process for Area Committee Community meetings

**Background Papers**

Area Committee Reports 15 June & 21 September 2011

Dumfries and Galloway Council March 2011 Review of Scheme of Administration and Delegation to Committees

Remit and Delegations of Area Committees June/July 2011

**APPENDIX 1****Format for Area Committee Community Meetings**

Area Committee Community Meetings held in the evening will offer an opportunity for reports to be brought forward about issues and topics relevant to an area that would benefit from stakeholder input. These meetings will also be used for community consultation where appropriate. Prior to debate or final consideration by Elected Members the public will be encouraged to express their views in a structured manner. This will help ensure that community and/or stakeholder views have been appropriately considered prior to Area Committee making a decision.

These Area Committee Community Meetings can also take the format of a 'Themed' Meeting which will focus in depth on a pre selected theme and invite key stakeholders and members of the public to engage with and inform Elected Members and put forward their views so that policy can be informed by consensus achieved locally. Themes for the meetings must be pertinent to the area and relevant to the partners and public to maximise attendance and engagement. Themed meetings are likely to include presentations on relevant topics by local groups. In addition, opportunities to include stands which provide information about activities and the work of organisations which contribute to achieving outcomes related to the theme, could feature. This will enable groups to show-case their work and helps to foster networking and partnership opportunities. All participants will be encouraged to give their views in line with the National Standards for Community Engagement.

There will be flexibility to accommodate unanticipated and emerging/emergency issues.