

DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE

Origin:

This originated as a motion to Council moved by Councillor Philip in June 2009, noting that:

- the Sustainable Communities Act was designed to allow local authorities and their communities to drive the action and assistance that Central Government gives in promoting thriving sustainable communities;
- the Act gave local authorities the power to make proposals to Government on the action and assistance Government must take or give to promote sustainable communities and that those proposals can be for a transfer of public money and functions from central or regional control to local control;
- the Act defines sustainable communities broadly, that definition having the four aspects of:
 - (i) the improvement of the local economy;
 - (ii) protection of the environment;
 - (iii) promotion of social inclusion; and
 - (iv) participation in civic and political activity;
- reasons for a local authority choosing to use the Act include gaining new powers or assistance from Government determining those powers or that assistance and transferring public monies from central or regional control to local control; and
- resolves to use the Act by submitting proposals for action and assistance from Central Government as best serves the District.

The consideration of this motion was referred to the Cabinet for their consideration. It went to the cabinet on 13 July 2009, where they referred it to Overview and Scrutiny for their consideration and report.

Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the referral and decided that the best way to deal with this item of work was to create a Task and Finish Panel specifically to consider the issues involved with the Sustainable Communities Act (2007).

Term of Reference:

1. To consider the opportunities presented by the Sustainable Communities Act 2007 with respect to the improvement of the local economy, protection of the environment, promotion of social inclusion and increased participation in civic and political activity.
2. To identify ways of developing proposals which the local authority consider would contribute to promoting the sustainability of local communities and, in particular, the scope for the transfer of functions from one body to another.
3. To investigate and recommend the best method of raising awareness and encouraging proposals from local people to put forward policy proposals with regard to:
 - Provision of local services, and the extent to which the volume and value of goods and services are produced within 30 miles;
 - Rate of increase in the growth and marketing of organic food;
 - Reasonable access of residents to nutritional food;

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- Number of local jobs;
 - Measures to conserve energy and increase the quantity of locally supplied energy;
 - Measures taken to reduce the level of road traffic including;
 - Increase in social inclusion, including an increase in involvement in local democracy;
 - Measures designed to decrease emissions of greenhouse gases;
 - Measures designed to increase community health and well being;
 - Planning policies which would assist with the purposes of this Act, including new arrangements for the provision of affordable housing;
 - Measures to increase the use of local waste materials.
4. To explore the feasibility of establishing representative panels of non-elected or nominated members of the local community (to include under-represented groups) with whom to consult on any proposals.
 5. To consider how information on local spending reports could, when available, be utilised to inform proposals to promote local sustainability.
 6. To identify a timetable that would facilitate proposals being submitted for consideration by the Government’s selector in the 2010/2011 round of applications.

Methodology:

To gather evidence and information in relation to the topic through the receipt of data, presentations and by participation in fact finding visits;

To evaluate all relevant facts in relation to the topic under review in an objective way and to produce recommendations for future action accordingly;

To establish whether there are any resource implications arising out of the topic under review and advise Cabinet for inclusion in the Budget Process 2010/11; and

To report back to Overview and Scrutiny Committee at appropriate intervals and to submit any final reports in the proposed Corporate Format for consideration by O & S, the Cabinet and Council.

TIMESCALE	ESTIMATED	ACTUAL
Commencement		
<u>Finish</u> 1. Interim report to include any budgetary items for the next budget round.		

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2. As a time limited review - to end by April 2010.		
Reports.		