

COMMITTEE: COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT BOARD

DATE: THURSDAY 12TH JULY 2012

SUBJECT: COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT STRATEGY

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IMPLICATIONS:

LEGAL		COMMUNITY SAFETY	
EQUALITIES	✓	ENVIRONMENT	
FINANCIAL		CONSULTATIONS	✓
STAFFING		OTHER	

WARDS AFFECTED: All

PURPOSE

1. This report updates the Area Board on the Community Involvement Strategy.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

2. The Community Involvement Board is recommended to note this report and consider how it would wish to receive further progress reports.

BACKGROUND

3. The Sustainable Community Strategy recommended developing a multi-agency approach to community involvement. The Luton Forum on 2 April 2009 agreed to set up a project team to develop a Community

Involvement Strategy. A draft strategy was produced and subject to consultation which included:

- a questionnaire to the Citizens Panel
 - focus groups with voluntary and community sector organisations
 - questionnaires to partners, voluntary and community sector organisations, councillors and residents
 - meetings with Equalities Fora and young people's groups
 - consultation within organisations
4. The Community Involvement Strategy was agreed by the Local Public Service Board on 18 March 2010 and by the Executive on 29 March 2010.

REPORT

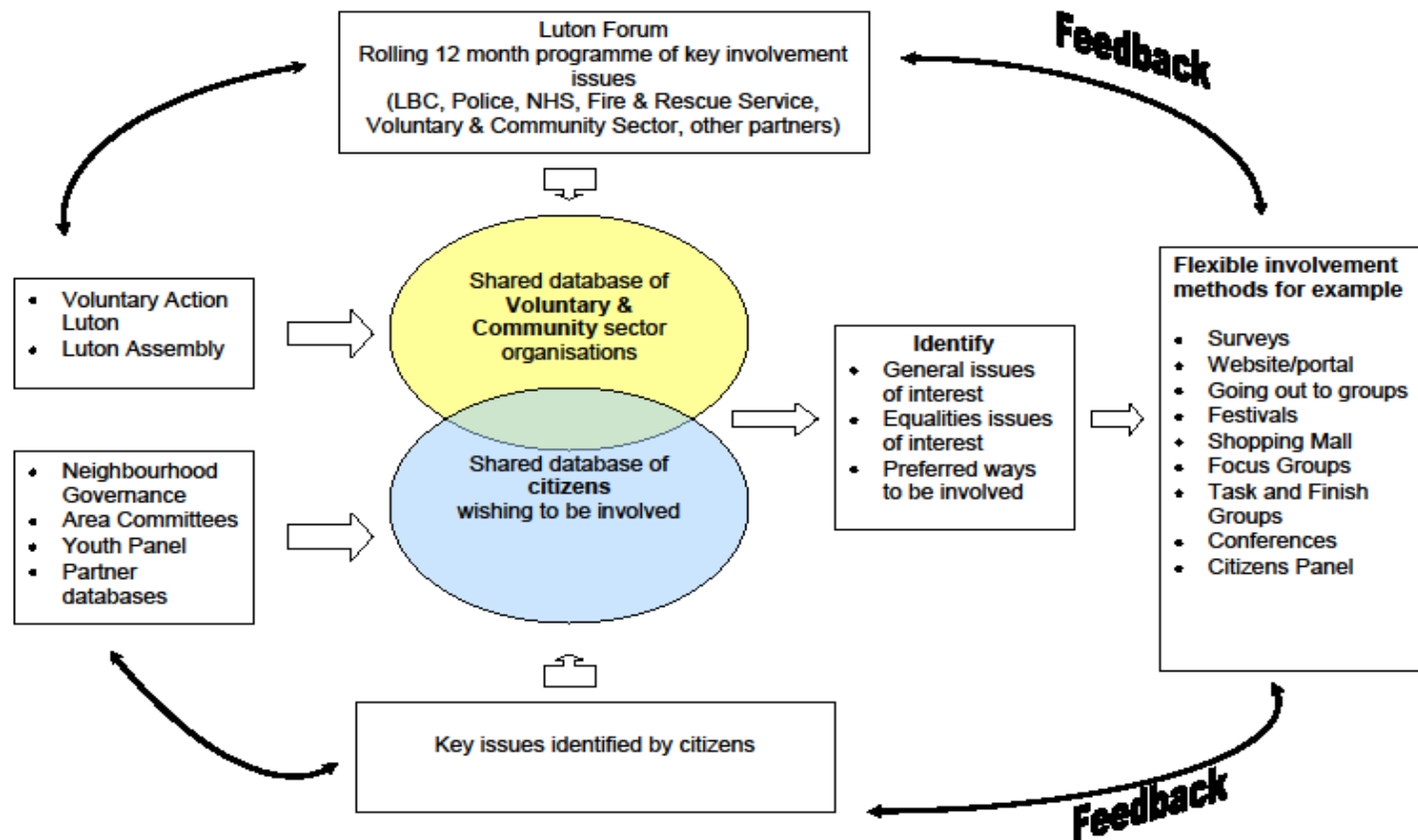
5. A diagram of the aims of the Strategy is attached (appendix 1). The Community Involvement Strategy has a vision, six principles and four objectives (appendix 2).
6. An officer group made up of council and partner organisations developed the strategy and is implementing an action plan which can be accessed through the following link <http://www.lutonforum.org/Forum/Documents/2012-06-07-HWBSv8.pdf>
7. The five priority issues on the action plan are to:
- establish a shared database of citizens willing to be involved
 - establish a shared database of voluntary and community organisations
 - procure a shared consultation portal
 - carry out research on citizen preferences on how they wish to be involved
 - produce a toolkit/training resource for partners
8. Neighbourhood Governance is one of the key ways in which the first objective of empowerment is delivered. The budget consultation with residents as part of the Community Debate was developed with regard to the vision, principles and objectives of the strategy in particular the need to go out to communities to find out their views.

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS **LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972, SECTION 100D**

The strategy, project team minutes and progress reports on the action plan are available from the report author.

APPENDIX 1:

Appendix 1: Luton Forum Community Involvement Strategy “Joined up” approach



APPENDIX 2: COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT STRATEGY - VISION, PRINCIPLES AND OBJECTIVES

Vision

Luton will be a place where citizens are confident they can influence decisions and that their involvement is leading to both improved services and stronger communities. Partners will work together in a joined up, cost effective and supportive way to involve all citizens. This will result in the number of involved citizens increasing year by year.

Principles

1. Community involvement should be at the heart of how partners improve services, set priorities and use resources
2. There should be a range of opportunities for involvement that are well publicised, link to local democracy and in which all citizens are encouraged to participate
3. Methods for involvement should be regularly reviewed to ensure they are cost effective, and meet the preferences and needs of all citizens
4. Citizens should receive clear and prompt feedback on how their involvement has helped to shape services, places and communities
5. Partners should work in a joined up way to avoid duplication
6. Involvement should be the basis on which partners increase satisfaction, build trust and confidence in their organisations

Objectives

1. To **empower** citizens, communities and organisations to set priorities, influence and make decisions together
2. To **engage** a representative range of citizens and increase the numbers of citizens involved
3. To **consult** in a cost effective, high quality, co-ordinated and sustainable manner
4. To **inform** citizens, ensuring effective communication and prompt, clear feedback on involvement