

<b>Cabinet</b>	
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<b>Meeting Date</b>	5 November 2014
<b>Report Title</b>	Local Engagement Forums September 2014
<b>Portfolio Holder</b>	Cllr Mike Whiting, Cabinet Member for Localism
<b>SMT Lead</b>	Pete Raine
<b>Head of Service</b>	Emma Wiggins
<b>Lead Officer</b>	Brooke Buttfield
<b>Key Decision</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>Classification</b>	<b>Open</b>
<b>Forward Plan</b>	Yes

<b>Recommendations</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To note and consider the discussion and outcomes of the three Local Engagement Forums held during September 2014.</li> <li>2. To suggest topics as agenda items for future Local Engagement Forums.</li> </ol>
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## **Purpose of Report and Executive Summary**

- 1.1 The report draws together notes of the discussion, outcomes and recommendations for Cabinet to consider following the recent Swale Local Engagement Forums (LEFs) of Faversham (9 September 2014), Sittingbourne (16 September 2014), and Sheppey (23 September 2014).
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to formalise the reporting relationship and encourage greater connectivity between the LEFs and Swale Borough Council's (SBC) Cabinet.
- 1.3 The report demonstrates to residents the potential of their forums to advise and influence local public services.
- 1.4 The next Swale Local Engagement Forums are being held during December 2014; Sheppey (9 December 2014), Sittingbourne (16 December 2014), and Faversham (2 December 2014). Cabinet is also asked to consider and suggest agenda items for future LEFs.

## **2 Background**

- 2.1 The LEFs are one of the key consultation methods for the Council, providing a route for residents as a group to advise on the shape and future of public services in the borough. This report summarises the You Said We Did reports that are compiled after each LEF, including discussion and outcomes from the LEF for

noting and discussion by the SBC Cabinet. It is hoped that this report will foster a two way dialogue. This report summaries the You Said We Did reports which are available online: <http://www.swale.gov.uk/LEF/>.

### 3 Proposal

- 3.1 To note the outcomes from each meeting (shown in Table 1) and feedback to the LEF chairmen as appropriate.
- 3.2 To suggest topics as agenda items for future Local Engagement Forums.

Table 1

<b>Faversham LEF 9 September 2014 – Chairman Cllr Bryan Mulhern</b>
<p>Issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kent Police led a discussion about the possible impact resulting from the significant change in structure locally, as well as the continuing need to target areas in Faversham most affected by crime, specifically shed burglaries.</li> <li>• Mark Radford, Director of Corporate Services, gave a presentation and answered questions from residents and members on Swale Borough Council's Local Plan.</li> <li>• Awareness was raised to SBC of the issue around the large volume of litter in the area.</li> <li>• Residents raised the issue of KCC's 'Lights Out' Project leaving certain streets in complete darkness.</li> <li>• Residents lead a discussion on concerns with speed of traffic in Faversham, particularly in the North Preston area.</li> </ul>
<p>Outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Following the discussion led by Kent Police, KCC reported that there is a project plan being developed to look at resource allocations to target the issue of traffic congestion outside schools, specifically Luddenham School.</li> <li>• The community and Members' were made aware of the structure and procedure in relation to Swale Borough Council's Local Plan.</li> <li>• Members and officers were made aware of the issue with litter in the local area and residents were informed of campaigns to resolve this problem such as 'Bitter about Litter.'</li> <li>• The community was made aware that if there are particular street lights causing a problem in the area, they can be reported and the Cabinet member will make a decision on the appropriate action to take.</li> <li>• The issue raised by residents regarding speed of traffic will be reported at the next Joint Transportation Board Meeting.</li> <li>• Russell Fairman, Community (Sport and Physical Activity) Officer, raised awareness around the recently launched Sports and Physical Activity Grants to the community and members.</li> </ul>
<b>Sittingbourne LEF 16 September 2014 – Chairman Cllr Mike Whiting</b>
<p>Issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kent Police updated the forum on the main issues the Police have faced throughout the Summer period including burglary, school parking and KCC's 'Lights Out' project.</li> <li>• Mark Radford, Director of Corporate Services, gave a presentation and answered questions from residents and members on Swale Borough Council's Local Plan.</li> </ul>

- Lyn Newton, Economy and Community Services Manager, provided an update on the relocation of Sittingbourne Market due to various queries and concerns raised from members and residents.

**Outcomes:**

- Residents and members were made aware that arrests have been made in relation to the spike of burglaries; the 'lights out' project is being monitored and statistics are being reported to KCC; a multi agency plan is being produced which will be in affect soon to resolve the high volume of traffic congestion outside schools.
- The community and Members' were made aware of the structure and procedure in relation to Swale Borough Council's Local Plan.
- Following Lyn Newton's update, residents and member were reassured and made aware of all actions being taken and the future of the market and town centre.
- Russell Fairman, Community (Sport and Physical Activity) Officer, raised awareness around the recently launched Sports and Physical Activity Grants to the community and members.

**Sheppey LEF 23 September 2014 – Chairman Cllr Patricia Sandle**

**Issues:**

- Kent Fire and Rescue discussed the recent barn fires which have occurred on the Isle of Sheppey, residents and members raised issues.
- Abdool Kara, Chief Executive, gave a presentation and answered questions from residents and members on Swale Borough Council's Local Plan.
- The forum raised concern in relation to the safety measures which will be taken on the Sheppey Crossing.
- Cllr Ken Pugh, Cabinet Member for Health, attended the meeting to provide an update on the changes to Sheppey Hospital.
- The forum led a discussed on issues with Halfway Car Park and the impact changes to the car park could have on local businesses within the area.

**Outcomes:**

- The questions and issues raised by residents and members were answered and the community was reassured of procedures taking place to prevent this offences occurring.
- The community and Members' were made aware of the structure and procedure in relation to Swale Borough Council's Local Plan.
- Bill Ronan, KCC Community Officer, reported the outcome from the Joint Transportation Board meeting and updated the community on proposed actions to be taken in the future.
- Russell Fairman, Community (Sport and Physical Activity) Officer, raised awareness around the recently launched Sports and Physical Activity Grants to the community and members.
- Following Cllr Ken Pugh's update, the community was made aware of the tender process which will take place in relation to DMC's contract ending in 2016.
- Residents were advised to forward their comments to the Chief Executive, Abdool Kara for further action.

## **4 Alternative Options**

- 4.1 Not applicable as this is an update report for noting and consideration.

## 5 Consultation Undertaken or Proposed

- 5.1 The public were given the opportunity at each LEF to question and challenge public sector representatives about the issues discussed at the meeting.

## 6 Implications

Issue	Implications
Corporate Plan	The LEFs contribute towards the SBC corporate priority of Embracing Localism as they are one of the key projects for empowering local residents. In particular they contribute to the aims of enabling members to champion communities and improving local consultation and engagement.
Financial, Resource and Property	<i>None identified at this stage.</i>
Legal and Statutory	<i>None identified at this stage.</i>
Crime and Disorder	Residents can engage directly with senior police officers at the meetings.
Sustainability	<i>None identified at this stage.</i>
Health and Wellbeing	<i>None identified at this stage.</i>
Risk Management and Health and Safety	<i>None identified at this stage.</i>
Equality and Diversity	One of the aims of the You Said We Did is to report the issues raised and questions asked at the meeting as accurately as possible, so as not to discriminate against anyone who raises an issue at the meeting. The reports remain live and residents can challenge it they are incorrect. If the amendment is approved, they are then updated on the online version of the report.

## 7 Appendices

- 7.1 There are no additional documents to be published with this report.

## 8 Background Papers

- 8.1 None.