

Report To: Regeneration Committee

Date: 25 May 2010

**Report By: Corporate Director of Education and
Communities**

Report No: R147/10/AH/JA

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Communities**

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Subject: Community Council Review – Progress Report

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Members on the progress being made with the review of Community Councils both at national and local level.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 For the last 18 months, the National Community Council Working Group has been considering
- a new Scheme of Delegation for Community Councils and
 - a new Code of Conduct for Community Councillors.

At a local level the Inverclyde Community Council Working Group has been considering

- new boundaries for Community Councils and
- a review of future support resources for Community Councils.

- 2.2 The National Community Council Working Group has now completed its work on the following four documents:

- A model Scheme of Establishment of Community Councils
- A model Constitution for Community Councils
- Model Standing Orders
- A Code of Conduct for Community Councillors

These documents have been sent to all Community Councils. All Community Councils are being formally consulted on their opinion on the new documents prior to them being approved by Inverclyde Council. The Inverclyde Community Council Working Group has now also completed its initial proposals on boundaries and all Community Councils are also being consulted about these proposals. In addition, all Community Councils will be asked for their views on future support resources for Community Councils.

- 2.3 The final round of consultation with local Community Councils is scheduled for May 2010, following which a final report will be made to the next Regeneration Committee setting out recommendations on the above proposals and detailing the timetable for the adoption of the new Scheme of Delegation for Community Councils, new Community Council boundaries, and proposed dates for elections.

3.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 That the committee note this report and approve the submission of a further report to the next Regeneration Committee.

John Arthur

Head of Service - Safer & Inclusive Communities

4.0 BACKGROUND

4.1 Local context

A process of engagement and dialogue within and between Community Councils and between Community Councils and neighbourhood groups took place between June and October 2007, culminating in the development of consensual proposals in relation to Community Council boundaries. A report was submitted to the Regeneration Committee in January 2008 outlining those proposals and recommending that a Working Group (CCWG) be established to facilitate negotiation between Community Council and Council representatives.

The matter of boundaries proved to be contentious throughout the period of negotiation and there remains no agreement on proposals to date.

In addition to boundaries, the Working Group was asked to consider a review of support resources for Community Councils.

4.2 National Context

During the same period a National Community Council Working Group had been considering

- a new Scheme of Delegation for Community Councils and
- a new Code of Conduct for Community Councillors.

The National Community Council Working Group has now completed its work on the following four documents:

- A model Scheme of Establishment of Community Councils
- A model Constitution for Community Councils
- Model Standing Orders
- A Code of Conduct for Community Councillors

These documents have been sent to all Community Councils. All Community Councils will be formally consulted on their opinion on the new documents prior to them being approved by Inverclyde.

4.3 The Inverclyde Community Council Working Group has now also completed its initial proposals on boundaries and have proposed the establishment of 11 Community Councils.

The Community Work Team was asked to formally consult with all Community Councils on these proposals, this was completed by March 2010.

At this stage, only 6 Community Councils have responded to the CCWG proposals. Only one of those Community Councils has agreed with the proposals.

4.4 The proposed timeline for taking these matters forward is as follows:

- **May 2010** - A final document will be issued on all these issues to allow for a further period of consultation.
- **August/Sept 2010** – A final report will be presented to the Regeneration Committee setting out recommendations on all of the above issues, including a schedule for adoption of the new Scheme of Delegation for Community Councils, proposed dates for elections and proposed implementation of new boundaries.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Financial

None

5.2 Legal
None

5.3 Personnel
None

5.4 Equalities
Full cognisance has been taken of equality and diversity procedures and processes in carrying out the consultation and preparation of these proposals.

7.0 CONCLUSIONS

7.1 The Committee is asked to note this report and approve the submission of a further report to the next Regeneration Committee detailing the timeline referred to in para 4.4.