

<b>DECISION-MAKER:</b>	CABINET
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	BIG SOCIETY SCUTINY INQUIRY
<b>DATE OF DECISION:</b>	16 APRIL 2012
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	CHAIR OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
<b>STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY</b>	
N/A	

### **BRIEF SUMMARY**

From September 2011 to April 2012 the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee (OSMC) undertook an inquiry into the Big Society. The Scrutiny Inquiry report contains a number of recommendations which have been highlighted in Appendix 1. Subject to the draft final report, attached as Appendix 2, being agreed at the meeting of the OSMC on 12<sup>th</sup> April 2012, the Cabinet needs to formally respond to these recommendations within two months to meet the requirements in the Council's constitution.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- (i) Subject to the report attached as Appendix 2 being agreed at the meeting of the OSMC on 12<sup>th</sup> April 2012, Cabinet is recommended to receive the attached report on the Big Society Inquiry to enable the Executive to formulate its response to the recommendations contained within it, in order to comply with the requirements set out in the Council's Constitution.

### **REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. The overview and scrutiny procedure rules in part 4 of the Council's Constitution requires the Executive to consider all inquiry reports that have been endorsed by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee, and to submit a formal response to the recommendations contained within them within two months of their receipt.

### **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED**

2. None

### **DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)**

3. The Committee undertook the Inquiry over 7 meetings between September 2011 and March 2012 and will consider, at a meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> April 2012, the 11 recommendations contained within the report attached at Appendix 2.
4. OSMC received evidence from a variety of organisations, individuals and officers from Southampton City Council, supported by national and local best practice examples. A list of witnesses who provided evidence to the Inquiry is shown within Appendix 2.

5. Evidence gathered throughout the Inquiry led the Committee to conclude that:
- The City has a strong history of community activity and there is real potential to build a more empowered and socially active Southampton through a cultural shift and greater focus, coordination and joined up working.
  - There is much that the Council can actively be doing to support this step change through opening up public services, particularly through simplifying the procurement process and changing the way services are delivered; within its community leadership role as an enabler and facilitator and stepping in with targeted help to build capacity and support communities to help themselves where it is needed, especially in the less affluent areas of the City.
  - This cannot be achieved in isolation; partnership work and the collective role of Southampton Connect are vital to ensure the best way forward for a strong City with empowered communities and individuals. The building blocks to achieve this are well underway.
  - Finally, it was recognised that this cultural change will not happen overnight and given limited resources a blanket approach cannot be taken. It is suggested that, where practical, small measured trials of proposed actions are undertaken, and once lessons are learnt through this pilot approach, steps can be taken to adapt and roll out successful initiatives, based on achievable outcomes and the needs of a particular community or locality
6. The draft report will not be considered by the Committee until 12<sup>th</sup> April, after the deadline for Cabinet papers, therefore any amendments will be reported to the Executive verbally at the Cabinet meeting.
7. The Executive needs to consider the Committee's recommendations and to formally respond within two months of the date of receiving this report in order to meet the requirements set out in the Council's constitution.

## **RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

### **Capital/Revenue**

8. A number of the recommendations within the appended report could be progressed by re-focussing council officer and partner's time and existing work programmes.
9. In practice any future resource implications arising from this review will be dependent upon whether, and how, each of the individual recommendations within the Inquiry report are progressed by the Executive. More detailed work will need to be undertaken by the Executive in considering its response to each of the recommendations set out in the Inquiry report.

### **Property/Other**

10. None.

## LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

### Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:

11. The duty to undertake overview and scrutiny is set out in Section 21 of the Local Government Act 2000 and the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.

### Other Legal Implications:

12. None

## POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS

13. The proposals contained within the appended report are in accordance with the Council's Policy Framework.

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**KEY DECISION?** Yes/No No

<b>WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:</b>	None directly as a result of this report.
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### SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

**Non-confidential appendices are in the Members' Rooms and can be accessed on-line**

#### Appendices

1.	Draft Recommendations – Big Society Inquiry
2.	Draft Final Report – Big Society Inquiry

#### Documents In Members' Rooms

	None
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#### Integrated Impact Assessment

Do the implications/subject of the report require an Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) to be carried out.	No
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#### Other Background Documents

**Integrated Impact Assessment and Other Background documents available for inspection at:**

Title of Background Paper(s)	Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable)
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