

APPENDIX A

MECHANISMS FOR TAKING FORWARD THE CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY

The mechanisms listed below will be the primary methods by which the Strategy will be delivered. The introduction of additional mechanisms will need to ensure that they do not overlap with these mechanisms if they are to meet the aims set out in the strategy.

CONSULTATION

- **Citizens panel** circa 1000 members- regularly surveyed and sent newsletters. The Council's primary resource for detailed consultation work.
- **Regular local consultation exercises** – consultation the authority is required to undertake to meet statutory requirements which can also be used to meet ad-hoc of local needs.
- **Annual residents survey** (plus 3 yearly BVPI general survey) – these are important sources of comparative trend information which can be used to inform service design and priority setting. Should be used as the basis for designing more detailed qualitative work.
- **Best value reviews** – these require additional consultation with users and stakeholders and form an important information resource.
- **Specific consultation exercises** - these will normally be tailored in response to specific policy proposals but will still need to ensure they do not overlap with existing activity, and meet the objectives set out in the strategy in particular those relating to coordination and cost-effectiveness

PARTNERSHIPS

- **Local Strategic Partnership** - brings together the most significant key players at senior level, oversees community plan, shares intelligence and delivers on a number of community plan projects.
- **Themed Partnerships** - responsible for joint planning, liaison and service delivery across agencies to tackle complex multi-agency issues- e.g. safer communities, health and social care.
- **Area Forums**- opportunity for residents to take up issues with the Council on a local basis. Part of formal committee structure
- **Inter Faith Forum** - exploratory conference in Sept 2003 agreed to set up forum which is now being taken forward

- **Former Civic Forum Action Teams-** these were established to take forward goals in the last community plan. Activity was uneven and the official structure has been abolished but some groups bring together partners/groups with particular perspective and continue to provide partnership and engagement opportunities e.g. celebrating diversity, improving access

DATA AND INTELLIGENCE

- **Geographical Information System (GIS)** mapping to be used as primary tool for mapping and sharing data including the analysis and dissemination of key statistics, e.g. 2001 Census.
- **Use of existing corporate communications tools** (Barnet First, First team and First Hand) as vehicles for communicating with the community and staff including consultation exercises and their results.
- **Consultation Team** – providing corporate advice, sharing information and holding central database of consultation activity.

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

- **Scrutiny committees** invite participation and call evidence from the public and community representatives. e.g. a pilot “scrutiny conference” was recently held by the health and social services overview and scrutiny committee at which stakeholders in the mental health services in the borough presented their perceptions and concerns which were discussed. The strategy recommends that Scrutiny extends their community engagement and consider opportunities to do this as part of their work programme development.
- **Civic Engagement ‘outreach’ meetings-** the Cabinet Member for Value and Effectiveness is meeting variety of stakeholders (e.g. voluntary groups, residents in a particular neighbourhood) to listen to their views and, in the next phase, discuss how they and the Council can work together around corporate plan themes
- **Civic Network-** first meeting in March 2004- bringing together local stakeholders to network and to have opportunity to discuss work of LSP and community plan.
- **Involving Young people-** mechanisms currently being reviewed by the children and Young people Best value Review.
- **Barnet Voluntary Service Council networks-** independent and bringing together voice of voluntary sector involved in fields such as health and care; refugees; women (being established), etc .These are voluntary sector led but often facilitated by LBB grants. The networks

also offer opportunity to engage with specific groups and those who may be hard to hear.

- **Housing**- a variety of mechanisms for encouraging tenant/leaseholder involvement and participation.
- **Use of arts and culture** to engage with people in an innovative way- particularly those not reached by traditional mechanisms.