

MAJOR REVIEW – DIVERSIFYING THE STREET CHAMPIONS INITIATIVE – DRAFT FINAL REPORT

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REASON FOR ITEM

Following the Committee's consideration of this issue, a draft final report and recommendations have been produced. This report needs to be agreed by the Committee prior to consideration by Cabinet at its meeting on 19 March 2015.

OPTIONS OPEN TO THE COMMITTEE

1. To consider the evidence that the Committee gathered during its review.
2. Highlight issues for further investigation.
3. To consider and agree the draft final report for the review.

INFORMATION

1. Following three witness sessions, a full final report has been drafted collating the information gathered by Members during the process.
2. To reflect the themes that emerged throughout the review, the report has been divided into the following two areas:
 - § Raising Awareness and Improving Intelligence; and
 - § Diversifying Communication and Reporting Methods.
3. Officers have endeavoured to ensure that this report is as accessible as possible and, consequently, have only included information that was directly relevant to the final recommendations. However, there is a great deal of contextual information provided in the Background Reading section which should provide those reading the report with all of the evidence heard by the Committee itself. There are also links to the minutes from these sessions, should they be required.

PAPERS WITH THE REPORT

Diversifying the Street Champions Initiative – Terms of Reference
Draft final report

DIVERSIFYING THE STREET CHAMPIONS INITIATIVE

Terms of Reference

Setting the context

1. To gain a comprehensive understanding of the current Street Champions initiative to include:
 - a. The current level of uptake across different areas of the Borough;
 - b. The volume and nature of the issues raised;
 - c. The remit and accountability of the role; and
 - d. The barriers to involvement and reporting issues.
2. To gain a comprehensive understanding of the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme to include:
 - a. The findings of the pilot project into linking the Street Champions Initiative and the Borough's Neighbourhood Watch Scheme;
 - b. The current level of uptake across different areas of the Borough;
 - c. A clear idea as to where schemes are located in the Borough; and
 - d. The barriers to involvement.

Better Access and Reporting

1. To explore ways in which the Council could better use its current resources (e.g. its website) to increase the ease with which volunteers are able to report issues;
2. To assess the viability of using new forms of digital media in order to make reporting issues more accessible; and
3. To explore ways in which those volunteers who do not wish to use digital medias can better report issues.

Street Champions and Neighbourhood Watch

1. To put forward recommendations on how the Street Champions initiative could be linked with Neighbourhood Watch Schemes in the Borough;
2. To explore ways in which Street Champions could be encouraged to engage more generally in the community safety agenda; and
3. To explore how these initiatives might be linked through the use of the technologies highlighted above.