

REPORT OF COUNCILLOR LISGO – COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

1. Introduction.

1.1. I am pleased to be able to report to Council that good progress is being made in a number of important areas of the Community Leadership portfolio.

2. Equalities Best Value Review.

2.1. This piece of work will be completed by the end of March. Many partner agencies have been involved in this review and have helped to develop the action points that comprise the improvement programme for the future.

2.2. My thanks go to everyone who has been involved in this crucial area of work.

3. Community Strategies.

3.1. The Community Strategy for Taunton Deane will be published by the end of April following consideration of the final draft by the Local Strategic Partnership at their next meeting on 13 March.

3.2. The local strategy for West Deane will be published in May following involvement and views given by hundreds of local residents. The Wiveliscombe Area Partnership are to be particularly congratulated on the success of their consultation process.

4. Taunton Surestart Programme.

4.1. This is a new government funded programme aimed at working with the 0-4's and their families in order to achieve a good start in life. The scheme in Taunton covers Taunton North and Taunton East.

4.2. Taunton Deane Borough Council is an active partner in this scheme and proposals are to be further considered by the Executive on 12 March.

5. Grant Giving.

5.1. Following changes to the way Taunton Deane Borough Council operates their grant giving, Service Level Agreements are being developed with a number of local organisations such as the Council for Voluntary Service, Citizens Advice Bureau, relate etc.... This will achieve more stable funding regimes for the organisations involved as well as enhancing the Councils procurement strategy for the purchase of services from the voluntary sector.

6. "Hear by Right."

6.1. Taunton Deane Borough Council has adopted the "Hear by Right" standard, providing a framework to ensure that the views of young people are considered in all that we do as service provider and policy maker.

Councillor Libby Lisgo.

