

3 SETTING STANDARDS FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT - UPDATE (AN338-2004)

On 8 September 2003 the Committee agreed Dundee City Council's participation in the national pilot programme for setting Standards for Community Engagement, led by the Scottish Community Development Centre on behalf of Communities Scotland. (Article IV refers).

This agenda note reports on progress made to date as agreed.

A focus group was held in Dundee in June 2003, as part of a programme of six area-based focus groups held across the country, to identify the issues that the Community Engagement Standards would need to tackle.

This was followed up by a conference at West Park Centre in November 2003, one of a series of four national events, used to consult stakeholders on the development of the draft Community Engagement Standards.

The Dundee Partnership made a successful application to Communities Scotland to participate in the national pilot programme and a decision was made to apply the standards to the development of a Community Engagement and Communication Strategy in the Dundee North West Area (Ardler, St Mary's, Brackens, Downfield and the Dales).

Key stakeholders from the public, private, voluntary and community sectors agreed to participate in the pilot at local meetings between March and April 2004.

A draft Community Engagement and Communication Strategy, as per the pilot, is currently being prepared for this Area, with support from the Scottish Community Development Centre and the involvement of key stakeholders.

The strategy will be finalised by the end of August and will run from 2004 – 2007. The effectiveness of the Community Engagement Standards will be evaluated by the Scottish Community Development Centre by January 2005.

The effectiveness of the Community Engagement and Communication Strategy will be monitored annually.

A further report on Dundee's involvement in the national pilot programme will be prepared for Committee in March 2005.