

Agenda item:

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Title of meeting: Housing Cabinet Portfolio

Subject: Green Neighbours project

Date of meeting: 10th July 2012

Report by: Head of Planned Maintenance – Meredydd Hughes

Wards affected: Paulsgrove, Central Southsea and Milton

1. **Requested by** - Cabinet member for Housing, Councillor Wylie.
2. **Purpose** - To inform members about the Green Neighbours project.
3. **Information Requested:**
 - a) The aim of the project is to promote sustainable living to residents in two pilot areas of the city by developing a group of volunteers called the Green Neighbours, who will initially provide advice on home energy use, affordability and recycling.
 - b) The Green neighbours will engage with hard to reach residents as it is these local people who are more likely to be effective at engaging with and inspiring other residents to both participate and change their behaviour.
 - c) This project will be a valuable tool in helping to meet Portsmouth's corporate priorities of creating a greener city, helping vulnerable residents and to improve efficiency and encourage involvement by residents.
4. **Scope of the project.**
 - The Green Neighbours project will start in two contrasting pilot areas, Paulsgrove and Southsea. Both experience high levels of fuel poverty.
 - The project will cover energy saving and financial advice, refuse, recycling and waste prevention advice (Love Food Hate Waste).
 - It will be set up in a way which will allow subsequent evaluation in terms of outcomes and processes by qualitative and quantitative measures.
5. **Project objectives**
 - To recruit 1 volunteer per 100 properties across targeted areas by June 2014. (The project currently targets 11k households)

- For each volunteer to raise awareness and knowledge in energy and recycling by at least 25% of their allocated number of properties by June 2014.

6. **Linkages**

PCC Community housing will provide advice and support on energy efficiency.

There is scope to share knowledge and training with the local housing associations.

The project will help identify fuel poverty in the pilot areas and can contribute to project work on the HIDS Winter Warmth Campaign.

LAH resident participation team are able to support project work and activities with volunteers in the community.

Other links are being made with external stakeholders in the two pilot areas to share experience and encourage collaborative working.

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Signed by (Head of Service)

Appendices:

Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972

The following documents disclose facts or matters, which have been relied upon to a material extent by the author in preparing this report:

Title of document	Location