

	<p style="text-align: center;">Community Leadership Committee</p> <p style="text-align: center;">24th June 2015</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Title</p>	<p>Communities Together Network Annual Report 2015</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Report of</p>	<p>Director of Strategy</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Wards</p>	<p>All</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Status</p>	<p>Public</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Enclosures</p>	<p>Appendix A: Communities Together Network Annual Report 2014/15</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Officer Contact Details</p>	<p>Lesley Holland, Commissioning & Equalities Policy Officer 0208 359 3004 lesley.holland@barnet.gov.uk Elissa Rospigliosi, Community Engagement, Participation & Strategy Lead 0208 359 7158 elissa.rospigliosi@barnet.gov.uk</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Summary</p>	
<p>This cover report presents the first annual report of Barnet's Communities Together Network (CTN). CTN was set up in October 2013 and is a community resilience forum, designed to operate at a proactive and reactive level in response to any emergency incidents, so that emergency services and the community can work together to monitor, understand, reduce and prevent community tension. It also forms part of the Council's broader approach to equalities.</p> <p>The arrangements agreed at Cabinet on 24 September 2013 included a requirement to present an annual report on the Network's activities to the Safer Communities Partnership Board and to publish this on the Council's website.</p> <p>This report asks the Community Leadership Committee to note the CTN Annual Report for 2014/15 and agree that it should be published on the Council's website.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Recommendations</p>	
<p>1. To note the Communities Together Network Annual Report 2014/15 and agree its publication on the Council's website.</p>	

1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED AND REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 This cover report presents the first annual report of Barnet's Communities Together Network (CTN).
- 1.2 CTN was set up in October 2013. CTN is a community resilience forum and is designed to operate at a proactive and reactive level in response to any emergency incidents, so that emergency services and the community can work together to monitor, understand, reduce and prevent community tension. It also forms part of the Council's continuing commitment and refreshed approach to equalities
- 1.3 It is an important voluntary and informal communication channel and includes council representatives from Emergency Planning, Community Safety, Community Participation, Consultation and Engagement, and other strategic and community partners including Police, Fire, CommUNITY Barnet, Barnet Multi-Faith Forum, Barnet Homes, Re, Middlesex University, Barnet and Southgate College, NHS and community groups. It is jointly chaired with CommUNITY Barnet and is open to all statutory, voluntary and community organisations in the borough, of all faiths and none. Councillors are also welcome to attend.
- 1.4 The arrangements agreed at Cabinet on 24 September 2013, which gave authority for setting up CTN under the 'Communities Together' Action Plan and to the Council's approach for promoting community cohesion and monitoring community tensions, included an annual report on the Network's activities, to be made to the Safer Communities Partnership Board (SCPB).
- 1.5 The annual report outlines CTN's aims, purpose and terms of reference (which were agreed at the CTN meeting on 18th October 2013 and are included in the report) and reports on successes in CTN's first year of operation.
- 1.6 The 2014/15 CTN annual report was presented to the Safer Communities Partnership Board on 24 April 2015, who agreed it. This report asks the Community Leadership Committee to note the CTN annual report and agree that it should be published on the Council's website.

2. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

- 2.1 Not publishing the report would contradict the arrangements agreed for CTN by Cabinet and run counter to the Council's commitments to give clear information to residents and partner organisations about its activities.

3. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

- 3.1 If the Committee approves the recommendation, the report will be published on the Council's website and further action will continue to develop a future work programme and to organise the planned events outlined for 2015/16 in the report.

4. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

4.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance

- 4.1.1 This is the first CTN Annual Report produced by Barnet Council under the refreshed approach to equalities following the 2010 Equality Act, and it is part of our approach to strengthening how we take account of equalities in our community engagement and decision making. The report reflects the Council's statutory responsibilities under The Equality Act 2010 and Public Sector Equality Duty, (PSED – further detail included in the report); our approach to implementing our equalities policy; and our progress against the Strategic Equalities Objective, which is linked to Barnet's [Corporate Plan](#).

- 4.1.2 The Corporate Plan, 2015-2020, identifies a set of strategic objectives which frame the council's approach to achieving its vision of making local services more integrated, intuitive and efficient by 2020, aimed at ensuring that Barnet is a place:

- of opportunity, where people can further their quality of life
- where people are helped to help themselves, recognising that prevention is better than cure
- where responsibility is shared, fairly
- where services are delivered efficiently to get value for money for the taxpayer

- 4.1.3 The outcomes around which these objectives are prioritised include:

- To support families and individuals that need help, such as to change behaviour and lead active lives
- To help people with mental health issues to stay well, get a job and remain active
- To create better life chances for young people
- To offer personalised support to enable young people who are most at risk of not achieving their potential to close the gap with their peers; make a positive transition into adulthood; and prevent later difficulties

4.2 Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)

- 4.2.1 There are no resource implications for this report.

4.3 Legal and Constitutional References

- 4.3.1 Under the Council's Constitution Responsibility for Functions (Annex A) the Terms of Reference of the Community Leadership Committee includes:

- To maintain good community relations with Barnet's diverse communities ensuring that all communities have the opportunity to participate fully in the Borough's affairs.
- To work together with partners on the Barnet Safer Communities Partnership including Police, Fire and Criminal Justice Agencies to help make Barnet a safer place.
- To approve any non-statutory plan or strategy within the remit of the Committee that is not reserved to Full Council or Policy and Resources.

4.4 **Risk Management**

- 4.4.1 CTN was set up following civil disturbances in 2011 to promote good relationships between different communities in Barnet and mitigate the risk.

4.5 **Equalities and Diversity**

- 4.5.1 The 2010 Equality Act outlines the provisions of the Public Sector Equality Duty, which requires public bodies **to have due regard** to the need to:

- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Equality Act 2010
- advance equality of opportunity between people from different groups
- foster good relations between people from different groups

- 4.5.2 Under the Equality Act 2010, the relevant protected characteristics are age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation. The broad purpose of this duty is to integrate considerations of equality into day business and keep them under review in decision making, the design of policies and the delivery of services.

4.6 **Consultation and Engagement**

- 4.6.1 It was not considered necessary to undertake a specific consultation exercise for this report. The annual report was drawn up in discussion with CTN strategic partners and members, presented to Safer Communities Partnership Boiardo on 24th April 2015 and widely circulated thereafter.

5. **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 5.1 At their meeting on 24 September 2013 Cabinet gave authority for setting up CTN under the 'Communities Together' Action Plan and to the approach for promoting community cohesion and monitoring community tensions. The record of the meeting is at:
<http://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/g7464/Printed%20minutes%2024th-Sep-2013%2019.00%20Cabinet.pdf?T=1>