

Cherwell District Council

Executive

5 September 2016

Consultation & Engagement Strategy (2016–19)

Report of Director - Strategy and Commissioning

This report is public

Purpose of report

To set out the Strategy for Consultation and Engagement for Cherwell District Council, and the action plan for the consultations and engagements for 2016/17.

1.0 Recommendations

The meeting is recommended to:

- 1.1 Agree the three year Strategy for Consultation and Engagement.
- 1.2 Agree the consultation and engagement action plan for 2016/17 noting the areas of joint working with partner agencies and developing closer links with our communities.

2.0 Introduction

- 2.1 This report presents the consultation and engagement strategy. The strategy will outline the principles for consultation and engagement for the council enabling us to continue to improve service delivery by collecting focussed and meaningful feedback from residents, communities and customers.
- 2.2 This joint strategy will be used as the basis for the annual action plans to guide the specific consultation and engagement events that Cherwell District Council will be undertaking during the period 2016 to 2019.
- 2.3 The Council has had a consultation strategy in place since 2009 which has now come to an end and needs updating.

3.0 Report Details

- 3.1 The consultation and engagement strategy for 2016–2019 is attached as appendix 1, it sets out the types and methods of engagement and consultation that will be used which will be proportionate and appropriate to the nature and subject matter and has a much greater emphasis on partnership working.
- 3.2 The action plan for 2016/2017 is attached as appendix 2 and contains local opportunities to consult and engage with the local community and the district as a whole. It sets out the topic to be covered and the audience the event/consultation is targeted at.

4.0 Conclusion and Reasons for Recommendations

- 4.1 The council has undertaken regular consultations and engagement events since 2009 and the new strategy will build on this foundation. The strategy is supported by meaningful and relevant action plans to provide the detail for how this work will be carried out.
- 4.2 The 2016-17 action plan demonstrates how the council will continue to deliver consultations and public engagement and thereby support the stated equalities objectives over the coming year. Progress will be reported via the performance management framework on a quarterly basis. The equalities objectives are:
- Fair Access and Customer Satisfaction
 - Tackling Inequality and Deprivation
 - Building Strong and Cohesive Communities
 - Positive Engagement and Understanding
 - Demonstrating Our Commitment to Equality

5.0 Consultation

No specific consultation on this report is required.

6.0 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

- 6.1 The following alternative options have been identified and rejected for the reasons as set out below.

Option 1: To note the report

Option 2: To request additional information on items within this report

7.0 Implications

Financial and Resource Implications

- 7.1 There are no financial implications

Comments checked by:

Paul Sutton – Chief Finance Officer, 03000 030106

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Legal Implications

- 7.2 The Council can be under a mandatory legal duty to consult on certain proposed decisions (such as budget setting) and an implied duty to ensure fair decision taking processes in other areas. When consultation takes place due regard must be had to the responses and, where a different approach is taken to the prevailing view arising from the consultation this needs to be expressly justified. In short proper and effective consultation adds to the robustness and legality of the Council's decision making. It also enables the Council to comply with the public sector equality duty under the Equality Act 2010.

Comments checked by:

Nigel Bell, Team Leader – Planning and Litigation, 01295 221687

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Risk Implications

- 7.3 There are no Corporate Risks recorded on the Register; however for all Community Engagement Events a risk assessment is conducted and insurance is checked for validity with copies provided to the external venue if required.

Comments checked by:

Edward Bailey: Corporate Performance Manager - 01295 221605

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8.0 Decision Information

Key Decision

Financial Threshold Met: No

Community Impact Threshold Met: No

Wards Affected

All

Links to Corporate Plan and Policy Framework

Corporate Plan and Equality Framework for local Government

Lead Councillor

Councillor Wood, Leader of the Council and Executive Member for policy, partnerships and performance management.

Document Information

Appendix No	Title
Appendix 1	Consultation & Engagement Strategy 2016-2019
Appendix 2	Consultation & Engagement Action Plan 2016/17
Background Papers	
None	
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