



## Report of the Leader

Council – 4 May 2023

# Consultation and Engagement Strategy 2023 - 2028

<b>Purpose:</b>	To adopt the Consultation and Engagement Strategy
<b>Policy Framework:</b>	None.
<b>Consultation:</b>	Access to Services, Finance, Legal.
<b>Recommendation(s):</b>	It is recommended that:  1) The Consultation and Engagement Strategy attached at Appendix A is adopted.
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## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Council has had a Consultation and Engagement Strategy since 2005, and this has provided an effective framework to complete consultation activities and the ongoing development and improvement of services for the community.
- 1.2 Since the introduction of the strategy there has been a greater prominence across the Council on consultation and engagement as a key principle of service delivery. Activity has shifted away from a focus on formal consultation to a more meaningful and inclusive public engagement approach.
- 1.3 There has been an increased focus on co-production within the Council, if possible we need to consider a co-productive approach can be taken when developing our services.

## 2. Purpose of the Strategy

- 2.1 The purpose of this strategy is to ensure effective meaningful consultation and engagement with the residents and our partner organisations, so the Council

can make informed decisions that improve the access, quality and delivery of services.

2.2 This strategy provides the Council with a framework to make sure that people are listened to in decisions that affect them. It provides guidance and direction on:

- When we should consult and engage stakeholders
- Level of consultation and engagement required
- Principles to consider when undertaking consultation and engagement
- Use of consultation and engagement results

Making sure people are listened to is important, and the Council will make sure that this strategy is implemented. In particular they will make sure that outcomes from consultation and engagement opportunities have been appropriately considered when making key decisions.

2.3 The strategy supports, (not replaces), existing statutory and regulatory consultation and engagement processes, long standing consultation and engagement arrangements within service areas, and existing partnership arrangements. These process will continue, and feed into (where appropriate) the overall framework for consultation and engagement outlined within this strategy.

2.4 The strategy builds on the good standard of consultation and engagement activity currently taking place across the authority. We continue to improve our consultation and engagement processes and have a number of areas of good practice to build on as an authority.

### **3. Developing the Strategy**

3.1 The Strategy has been developed with involvement from both internal and external stakeholders through a variety of mechanisms:

- Discussions with Corporate Management Team
- Leadership team session
- Policy Development Committee input
- Strategic Equality Representatives

3.2 The draft Consultation and Engagement Strategy is attached as **Appendix A**.

3.3 The Consultation and Engagement Strategy has been subject to a period of formal consultation during October / November 2022. The responses have been considered in compiling the final draft Strategy.

### **4. Integrated Assessment Implications**

4.1 The Council is subject to the Equality Act (Public Sector Equality Duty and the socio-economic duty), the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure, and must in the exercise of their functions, have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Acts.
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Deliver better outcomes for those people who experience socio-economic disadvantage.
- Consider opportunities for people to use the Welsh language.
- Treat the Welsh language no less favourably than English.
- Ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

4.2 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2005 mandates that public bodies in Wales must carry out sustainable development. Sustainable development means the process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the 'well-being goals'.

4.3 Our Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) process ensures we have paid due regard to the above. It also considers other key issues and priorities, such as poverty and social exclusion, community cohesion, carers, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and Welsh language.

4.4 An IIA Screening Form has been completed and no adverse implications have been noted (Appendix B). The strategy will have a positive impact on communities.

## **5. Financial Implications**

5.1 All costs associated with the Strategy will be contained within existing budgets.

## **6. Legal Implications**

6.1 The proposals identified are in accordance with relevant legislation.

### **Background Papers:**

None

### **Appendices:**

Appendix A Draft Consultation and Engagement Strategy

Appendix B IIA screening