

The Vale of Glamorgan Council

Cabinet Meeting: 18 December, 2017

Report of the Leader

The Vale of Glamorgan Council Public Engagement Framework

Purpose of the Report

1. To seek Cabinet endorsement of the updated Public Engagement Framework 2017-20 ([Appendix A](#)) and associated action plan ([Appendix B](#)) following consultation.

Recommendation

1. That Cabinet endorse the Public Engagement Framework 2017-20 and Action Plan attached to this report at Appendix A and B.

Reason for the Recommendation

1. To ensure the continued commitment to improving the way in which the Council engages with residents and other stakeholders to inform decision making.

Background

2. The Council's Public Engagement Framework was first endorsed in 2014. The Vale of Glamorgan Council is committed to continuing to improve the way in which we engage our residents and key stakeholders in decision making. This updated framework sets out how this will be achieved and offers guidance to staff.

Relevant Issues and Options

3. Public engagement is an important part of the Vale of Glamorgan Council's everyday business. As such, it is one of the core values set out in the Council's Corporate Plan, 'to work together as a team that engages with our customers and partners, respects diversity and is committed to quality services'.
4. The Well-being of Future Generations Act details five ways of working which are essential to ensuring we are acting in a more sustainable way, and this includes Involvement. The Vale of Glamorgan Council has welcomed its duties under the Act and has been keen to ensure that the importance of engagement is a consistent message across the Council and with our partners.

5. The Vale of Glamorgan Public Services Board (PSB) has recognised the importance of effective engagement, and one of the four objectives in the draft well-being plan is 'to enable people to get involved, participate in their local community and shape local services'. This draft framework is consistent with the commitments in the Well-being Plan and will assist the Council to contribute to achieving the PSB's objectives.

Resource Implications (Financial and Employment)

6. There are no resource implications arising from this report.

Sustainability and Climate Change Implications

7. Empowering residents through meaningful citizen engagement is crucial to fostering sustainable communities. The framework will assist the Council to meet its duties under the Well-being of Future Generations Act and to contribute to the national well-being goals.

Legal Implications (to Include Human Rights Implications)

8. In some circumstances the Council is under a legal obligation to undertake public consultation and where consultation is undertaken poorly, any decisions relating to the delivery of services taken as a result may be subject to legal challenge.

Crime and Disorder Implications

9. There are no crime and disorder implications arising from this report.

Equal Opportunities Implications (to include Welsh Language issues)

10. Enabling all stakeholders to participate is one of the national principles of public engagement which are central to the framework.
11. Engagement is often used to inform Equality Impact Assessments.

Corporate/Service Objectives

12. Working together as a team that engages with our customers and partners is one of the core values set out in the Vale of Glamorgan Council Corporate Plan.

Policy Framework and Budget

13. This is a matter for Executive decision by Cabinet.

Consultation (including Ward Member Consultation)

14. A number of stakeholders, including elected members were invited to comment on the draft Framework. No individual ward member consultation was required.

Relevant Scrutiny Committee

15. Corporate Performance and Resources

Background Papers

None

Contact Officer

Hannah Davies, Communications Officer - Engagement

Officers Consulted

Internal Engagement Network
Corporate Equalities Officer

Responsible Officer:

Huw Isaac, Head of Performance and Development