

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO CABINET

17 DECEMBER 2020

**REPORT OF PEOPLE SELECT
COMMITTEE**

CABINET DECISION

Lead Cabinet Member – Access, Communities and Community Safety - Councillor Steven Nelson

SCRUTINY REVIEW OF PUBLIC CONSULTATION

SUMMARY

The attached report presents the outcomes of the People Select Committee's review of Public Consultation.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S) / DECISION(S)

This topic was included in the Scrutiny Work Programme for 2019/20. The review is now complete and the recommendations have been endorsed by the People Select Committee for submission to Cabinet.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That, building on the success of the Town Centre Consultation, paper consultation forms and public meetings are retained in future for large-scale consultations, where appropriate, to allow residents who cannot access online consultation to contribute their views.
2. That the Council improve the quality of the information on the consultation pages of the website and in Stockton News, including both activity and feedback. This will help to raise awareness of consultations to all residents and foster trust.
3. That engagement with young people be increased, through the use of engagement activities with Bright Minds Big Futures.
4. That promotion of '*Your Views Matter*', *The Residents' Panel* and regular feedback via social media platforms, including Facebook and Twitter, be increased.
5. That, as per normal practice, the current consultation platform continued be reviewed regularly to determine if alternative consultation platforms are available to SBC.
6. That links to current consultations be embedded into the start-up screens of public computers in libraries across the Borough.
7. That *The Residents' Panel* be used more effectively as a means of engagement outside of formal consultations and we provide regular feedback to the panel.

*Activities carried out in relation to recommendations are subject to Covid 19 guidelines and restrictions.

DETAIL

1. The attached report outlines the outcomes of the Scrutiny Review of Public Consultation. The overall aim of the review was to improve performance of the consultation activity itself and of all Council activities that use the results of the consultations.
2. The Committee has taken evidence from Council Officers, Bright Minds Big Futures, The Viewpoint Panel, Ipsos MORI, North Tyneside Council, Bluegrass Research Limited.

COMMUNITY IMPACT IMPLICATIONS

3. The Committee recognised the importance of retaining paper consultation forms, and improving print coverage of consultation activity, where appropriate. It was also acknowledged that engagement with young people should be increased. These areas have been addressed in the recommendations.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4. There is the potential for making savings or meeting growing demand from existing resources through the introduction of new approaches.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5. None.

RISK ASSESSMENT

6. This report is categorised as low to medium risk. Existing management systems and daily routine activities are sufficient to control and reduce risk.

WARDS AFFECTED AND CONSULTATION WITH WARD/COUNCILLORS

7. Not applicable.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

8. None.

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