

# Overview & Scrutiny Management Board

12 July 2021



**Report of:** Sophie Shirt

**Title:** Consultation and Engagement Strategy

**Ward:** All

**Officer Presenting Report:** Jon Toy

**Contact Telephone Number:** 07552 289589

## **Recommendations:**

Scrutiny is requested to:

- Provide feedback on the draft Consultation and Engagement Strategy to inform development of the strategy aims, objectives, action plan and performance indicators and targets.
- Provide views on the role of deliberative democracy processes, which could form part of the council's engagement approach.

## **The significant issues in the report are:**

The appended draft Consultation and Engagement Strategy sets out the council's proposed approach to engaging with and formally consulting citizens and other stakeholders over the three-year period 2021/22 to 2023/24.

The draft aims, objectives and actions address known challenges in seeking citizens' and stakeholders' views and enabling them to help shape policy and services. The strategy is being updated to include more specific information about future deliberative democracy processes.

The level of resourcing and investment needed to deliver the strategy, including future deliberative democracy processes, are being investigated. Feedback from Scrutiny at this formative stage will be helpful to inform this process.

Depending on the level and type of investment needed, the strategy may become a Key Decision.



## 1. Summary

Scrutiny is requested to:

- provide feedback on the draft Consultation and Engagement Strategy to inform development of the strategy aims, objectives, action plan and performance indicators and targets.
- To provide views on the role of deliberative democracy processes, which could form part of the council's engagement approach.

## 2. Context

**Appendix 1** is the draft Consultation and Engagement Strategy. This draft is at a formative stage and is being updated to include more specific information about future deliberative democracy processes. (The methodology and recommendations of Bristol's first citizens' assembly (a pilot deliberative democracy project) are described in the [June 2021 Cabinet report](#)).

Other internal and external stakeholders will be asked for their feedback on the draft strategy.

The level of resourcing and investment needed to deliver the strategy, including future deliberative democracy processes, are being investigated. Feedback from Scrutiny at this formative stage will be helpful to inform this process.

**Appendix 2** is the summary presentation for the scrutiny meeting on 12 July

## 3. Policy

A Consultation and Engagement Strategy is a commitment in the Communications Strategy 2019-2023

Consultation and engagement align with the following principles in the [Corporate Strategy 2018-2023](#):

- Maximise opportunities to work with partners and other stakeholders locally, nationally and globally.
- Plan inclusively with everyone in mind, but with a particular focus on our children and their future

## 4. Consultation

### a) Internal (in progress)

- ELM
- Mayor's Office
- City Office
- Legal
- Democratic Services
- Community Development
- Equalities and Inclusion
- Internal Comms
- Strategic Intelligence
- Tenant Participation team
- Commissioning team
- Sensory Support Service
- Transport Engagement team
- OSMB

**b)External**

- Details TBC

**5. Public Sector Equality Duties**

- 5a) Before making a decision, section 149 Equality Act 2010 requires that each decision-maker considers the need to promote equality for persons with the following “protected characteristics”: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation. Each decision-maker must, therefore, have due regard to the need to:
- i) Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Equality Act 2010.
  - ii) Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it. This involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to --
    - remove or minimise disadvantage suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic;
    - take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of people who do not share it (in relation to disabled people, this includes, in particular, steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities);
    - encourage persons who share a protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.
  - iii) Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it. This involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to –
    - tackle prejudice; and
    - promote understanding.
- 5b) The strategy sets out how we will collaborate with and hear from people living and working in all our city’s communities, so we can take into account the needs and diverse perspectives of people in different social, economic and cultural circumstances when deciding the best way to develop the city and council services.

Objective 2 of the strategy sets out how we will work to increase the overall numbers of people who engage, and specifically people in communities from which we tend to hear less.

The strategy is relevant to the Public sector equalities duties of eliminating unlawful discrimination; advancing equality of opportunity between people; and fostering good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

An equality impact assessment will be undertaken.

**Appendices:**

Appendix 1: Consultation and Engagement Strategy 2021-2024, draft v2.2

Appendix 2: Powerpoint presentation for the scrutiny meeting on 12 July

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985**

**Background Papers:**

**None**