

Consultation and engagement

Corporate Overview & Scrutiny
Committee
9 June 2023

Living our values every day



Accountable



Integrity



Empower



Respect



Excellence



Engagement VS consultation



Engagement – developing thinking and ideas, understand impact of proposed plans/thinking, invite other ideas



Consultation – formally asking for views to help inform decision makers



When is public consultation required?

There are four main circumstances where a duty to consult may arise:



Where there is a statutory duty to consult



Where there has been a promise to consult



Where there has been an established practice of consultation or a legitimate expectation to consult



Where a failure to consult would lead to conspicuous unfairness

Legislative requirements & best practice - Gunning principles



Proposals are still at a formative stage



There is sufficient information to give 'intelligent consideration'



There is adequate time for consideration and response



'Conscientious consideration' must be given to the consultation responses before a decision is made



Legislative requirements & best practice continued....

Further principles of consultation:

- Integrity – has honest intention
- Visibility – reasonably aware of consultation
- Accessibility – reasonable access to consultation
- Transparency – published summary of responses
- Disclosure – relevant information available
- Fair Interpretation – collate and assess
- Publication – participants see summary of outputs and outcomes



GCC's approach



GCC IS TCI MEMBER



CURRENT PROTOCOL DEVELOPED WITH THE CONSULTATION INSTITUTION (TCI)



NEW CONSULTATION PLATFORM, ENGAGEMENT HQ, IMPLEMENTED IN 2021



MAY 2023 – CLT AGREED TO ADOPT THE LGA'S NEW CONVERSATIONS GUIDE [LGA GUIDE TO ENGAGEMENT](#)



COMMUNITY CHARTER NEARING END OF REVIEW

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DECIDE KEY
QUESTIONS



DECIDE
STAKEHOLDERS



WHAT'S COME
BEFORE



DECIDE RESOURCES
AND TIMESCALES

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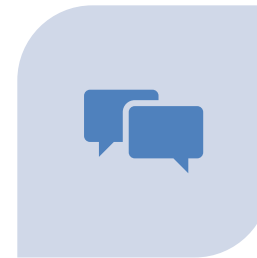
Excellence



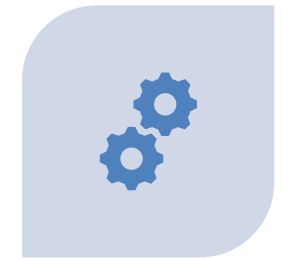
GCC's approach



CHOOSE CONSULTATION
METHODS



WRITE
COMMUNICATIONS PLAN



DESIGN AND IMPLEMENT

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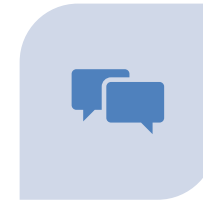
GCC's approach



ANALYSE



INTERPRET



PROVIDE
FEEDBACK



EVALUATE

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Public Participation Task Group - update

- To ensure that the facility of public questions at meetings of County Council, Cabinet and other committee meetings are clearly outlined on the website and that there is appropriate promotion through the council's Communications Team.
- **Update: Ahead of meetings, a banner is put on the website directing people to the live stream. Alert re asking questions also now in place**
- That a facility for supplementary questions be provided to allow them to be asked via video, telephone or written submission.
- **Update: New hybrid facilities are in place in the Meeting Rooms and Council Chamber.**



Public Participation Task Group – update cont....

- Notifications of petitions received and the response to be sent to members regularly via communications channels such as the Members Matters weekly update (updated and maintained on the Members' website)
- **Update: Responses to petitions circulated to relevant member and links provided via Members Matter.**
- That a review be carried out of the Consultation processes, including how feedback from councillors and members of the public can help to ensure they are carried out more effectively. Members should be consulted on the terms of reference for the review.
- **Update: No formal review has been established.**



Public Participation Task Group – update cont....

- That the Communications Team continue to work on improving how information is presented.
- **Update: new consultation platform, accessibility guidelines, use of different approaches, TCI team training**
- Review the County's Community Charter, including the gathering intel and insight of approaches to consultation and engagement to extend the charter to allow all residents and to benefit from the offer.
- **Update: Review nearing completion**



Public Participation Task Group – update cont....

- Building on the previous question and answer sessions held during the summer, to provide further opportunities for the public to ask questions to cabinet members through virtual meetings at dedicated meetings.
- **Update: The public have an opportunity to ask questions to cabinet members at Cabinet meetings and full Council via Teams and in person.**

