

REPORT TO:	Executive Board
REPORT NO:	HF/62/18
DATE:	12 June 2018
LEAD MEMBER:	Councillor Hugh Jones (People - Communities, Partnerships, Public Protection and Community Safety)
CONTACT OFFICER:	Rachel Penman – Senior Performance, Improvement and Partnerships Officer
SUBJECT:	Wrexham County Borough Council Involvement Strategy
WARD:	N/A

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To approve the new WCBC Involvement Strategy.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 The Council's previous 'Consultation and Engagement Strategy' ran from 2013-2017, and is no longer fit for purpose.
- 2.2 There is a need to broaden the focus from being predominantly on formal consultation, instead considering how we more effectively involve citizens and work collaboratively with them.
- 2.3 The Involvement Strategy focusses on three areas of 'involvement': consultation, engagement and coproduction. It seeks to clarify definitions which can be understood across the organisation, and highlights WCBC's vision and commitment towards involving people in the work that we do. A copy of the Strategy can be found at appendix one.
- 2.4 This corporate strategy was drafted by Officers from across all departments of WCBC, and as such it seeks to complement and build upon good practice and existing related Strategies within other departments across the authority such as the Children and Young People's Participation Strategy.

- 2.5 The Strategy was published for public consultation between 26th March and 7th May, where people were asked to consider the definitions and commitments within the strategy; as well as suggesting actions which WCBC could undertake to work towards the 'vision'. Findings from this consultation can be found at appendix two.
- 2.6 There will be an action-plan developed to support the implementation of this Strategy. The action plan will be monitored by the Lead Member for People: Communities and Partnerships, and contain actions for different areas of WCBC.

3. **RECOMMENDATION**

That Executive Board approves the corporate Involvement Strategy, and endorses the vision and commitments made within it.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

- (i) To support WCBC's commitment to the vision within the Strategy: that all people have the information they need to influence the planning and delivery of services. They are engaged and consulted with on decisions which affect them, and where possible we work together to design and deliver services.

4. **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 4.1 The Wellbeing of Future Generations Act identified 'involvement' of people as key to the principles of Sustainable Development, and essential to future service delivery. The Social Services and Well-being Act says that Local Authorities must put in place transparent arrangements where people are equal partners in designing and operating services.
- 4.2 Our Council Plan says that we will consult and involve local people in planning and delivering services. Not only consult with people on how we plan and deliver services, but engage with them to deliver co-produced services or to make it easier for people to help their family, neighbours and themselves.
- 4.3 Our Single Equality Plan sets out a commitment to reduce inequalities in representation and voice.
- 4.4 There is a need to broaden the focus from being predominantly on formal consultation, instead considering how we more effectively involve citizens and work collaboratively with them.

5. **IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 **Policy Framework** – This strategy has been developed to support the Council Planning Principles within the Council Plan.
- 5.2 **Budget** – There are no budget implications.
- 5.3 **Legal** – Involving people in decision making, and the design and delivery of services is enshrined in a number of Welsh Government Acts; including the Local Government Wales Measure, the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act, and the Social Services and Well-being Act.

- 5.4 **Staffing** – There are no staffing implications.
- 5.5 **Equality/Human Rights** – Members are advised of their duty to consider the full Equality Impact Assessment which is available at <http://vmwinqld/equalityisalive/Menu.aspx> report number FIN/EIA00128/2018. Members of the public can request a copy of the full Equality Impact Assessment from the Contact Officer named in the header box of this report. A summary of the Equality Impact Assessment is attached as Appendix 3.
- 5.6 **Risks** – There are no risk implications.
- 5.7 **CONSULTATION** - The Strategy was published for public consultation between 26 March and 7 May, where people were asked to consider the definitions and commitments within the strategy, as well as suggesting actions which WCBC could undertake to work towards the ‘vision’. Findings from this consultation can be found at appendix two.

BACKGROUND PAPERS	LOCATION	WEBSITE INFO.
Strategies for engaged and satisfied customers		http://www.wrexham.gov.uk/MinutesData/ExBoard/Reports/hccs5814.pdf