

**Community Engagement Strategy**

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor G. N. Denaro, Portfolio Holder for Finance and Enabling (including Governance/Policy and Performance/HR)
Portfolio Holder Consulted	No
Relevant Head of Service	Deb Poole, Head of Business Transformation and Organisational Development
Report Author	Rebecca Green Job Title: Policy Manager Contact email: r.green@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk Contact Tel: 01527 881616
Wards Affected	All
Ward Councillor(s) consulted	N/A
Relevant Strategic Purpose(s)	
Key Decision / Non-Key Decision	
If you have any questions about this report, please contact the report author in advance of the meeting.	

**1. RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Cabinet is requested to RESOLVE that:-**

- 1) that the Community Engagement Strategy attached at Appendix 1 be noted and endorsed.**

**2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The Community Engagement Strategy has been updated to support the organisation deliver effective engagement over the next 4 years.
- 2.2 A recognition of Covid has also been included in this updated version.

**3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from this report; however, having a robust Community Engagement Strategy will help the Council to understand the needs of residents supporting the design and delivery of more relevant, coordinated and appropriate services, which are generally more cost effective. Working towards the aims of the strategy could also be beneficial in regards of the council's reputation and may help to reduce potential complaints.

**4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The Community Engagement Strategy addresses the legal standards surrounding consultation, including the doctrine of legitimate expectation (common law) and the Gunning Principles (1985).
- 4.2 Other specific legislation, including the Local Government Act 1999 and the Equality Act 2010 must be taken into account where appropriate.
- 4.3 Certain functions of the Council, including planning and community safety have statutory requirements to consult.
- 4.4 Failure to consult or inadequate consultation could leave the Council open to challenge through a judicial review.
- 4.5 The strategy will be reviewed every four years or sooner to comply with changes to the law or policy and practice.

**5. STRATEGIC PURPOSES - IMPLICATIONS**

**Relevant Strategic Purpose**

- 5.1 The strategy contributes to the engagement element of the 'High Quality Services' priority, under 'An effective & sustainable Council', as identified in the Council Plan.

**Climate Change Implications**

- 5.2 There are no climate change implications arising from this report.

**6. OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

**Equalities and Diversity Implications**

- 6.1 The Community Engagement Strategy sets out our approach to enabling residents and customers to be informed, involved, share their opinions and influence decision making. By listening to residents and customers and recognising different needs, the Council will be better placed to design and deliver appropriate, coordinated and relevant services to the communities it serves.
- 6.2 The strategy supports the Council's approach to equality and diversity and will form overarching principles for how we engage all members of our community. Consultation and engagement are a key process in considering the equality impacts that decisions and policies may potentially have on the public.

**Operational Implications**

6.3 There are no operational implications directly arising from this report; the strategy details clearly our organisational responsibilities and provides clarity at an operational level.

**7. RISK MANAGEMENT**

7.1 There are no risks directly arising from this report.

**8. APPENDICES and BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Appendix 1 Draft Community Engagement Strategy 2021

**9. REPORT SIGN OFF**

<b>Department</b>	<b>Name and Job Title</b>	<b>Date</b>
Portfolio Holder	Councillor G. N. Denaro, Portfolio Holder for Finance and Enabling (including Governance/Policy and Performance/HR)	
Lead Director / Head of Service	Deb Poole Head of Business Transformation and Operational Development	28/04/21
Financial Services	N/A	
Legal Services	N/A	
Policy Team (if equalities implications apply)	Rebecca Green Policy Manager	29/09/21
Climate Change Officer (if climate change implications apply)	N/A	