

North Somerset Council

REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY AND CORPORATE ORGANISATION POLICY AND SCRUTINY PANEL

DATE OF MEETING: 3 MARCH 2020

SUBJECT OF REPORT: YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

TOWN OR PARISH: ALL

OFFICER/MEMBER PRESENTING: GEMMA DANDO, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR NEIGHBOURHOOD MANAGEMENT

KEY DECISION: NO

REASON:

Not for decision.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. For Community and Corporate Organisation Policy and Scrutiny Panel to receive the details of the “Your Neighbourhood” consultation which is running from 13th February 2020 to 7th March 2020.
2. For Community and Corporate Organisation Policy and Scrutiny Panel to consider the role of the panel in developing and shaping the strategies and service design which will lead on from the consultation.

1. SUMMARY OF REPORT

The Council is committed to working in partnership to help North Somerset to be a sustainable and fair place to live, work and visit. The council will work alongside residents, businesses, partners and other stakeholders to create a place where everyone has the opportunity to access quality education, jobs and housing.

The emerging corporate plan gives real emphasis to giving people the opportunity to work with the Council to shape the future of North Somerset and harness the great opportunity to achieve more for the people and place. As part of this, the Council is looking at how neighbourhood services are run and how it can ensure that they are fit for the future. In order to develop the thinking and strategies for important neighbourhood services, the Council is seeking the views of stakeholders on how services are delivered and where future priorities should be focussed – this is packaged together in the “Your Neighbourhood” consultation and engagement.

The “Your Neighbourhood” consultation commenced on 13 February 2020 and will run for 12 weeks until 7th May. The services being consulted on are as follows:

- i) Garden waste – to help the Council to shape the new garden waste collection service and options for home and community composting.
- ii) Leisure and sport centres – to help the council to understand the way North Somerset’s leisure and sport centres are currently used and how people would like to see them used in the future.
- iii) Libraries – to help the council to understand what is important to people about library services and how we can ensure they are fit for the future.
- iv) Parks and open spaces - as the Council reviews the parks and open spaces maintenance contract, to help understand which parks and open spaces people use and how they would like to see them used in the future.
- v) Street cleansing - as the Council reviews the street cleaning contract, to help to shape how it will look in the future.

One of the focusses of the consultation is to explore local ideas about how the council can work better with local people, local communities and other local stakeholders to make these valued services as efficient and sustainable as possible. For example, by pooling resources, creating delivery partnerships and taking advantage of income generating opportunities.

The intention of the consultation is twofold:

1. to gather quality information about local communities and their neighbourhood services, and use the information to inform the strategic, policy and delivery framework for those services.
2. to implement a new way of working with local councils, local communities, businesses and other stakeholders that is collaborative and which offers opportunities for people to influence what happens in their neighbourhoods.

2. POLICY

This delivers emerging policies from within the Corporate Plan – specifically the openness and transparency aspirations.

3. DETAILS

The Council has been under significant financial pressure in recent years – the population is growing, there are more people who are requiring support from essential council services for older people and children, and the money available from the government to support councils has significantly reduced. Despite the challenges, North Somerset has been able to find opportunities to continue to deliver quality services to residents.

The financial challenge still remains, and in order to continue to deliver some of the local, neighbourhood services that people value, they will need to be delivered in a very different way in the future. The council will need to work more alongside communities and volunteers, generate more income, create more partnerships, make services as efficient as possible and potentially reduce some of the things that are currently delivered.

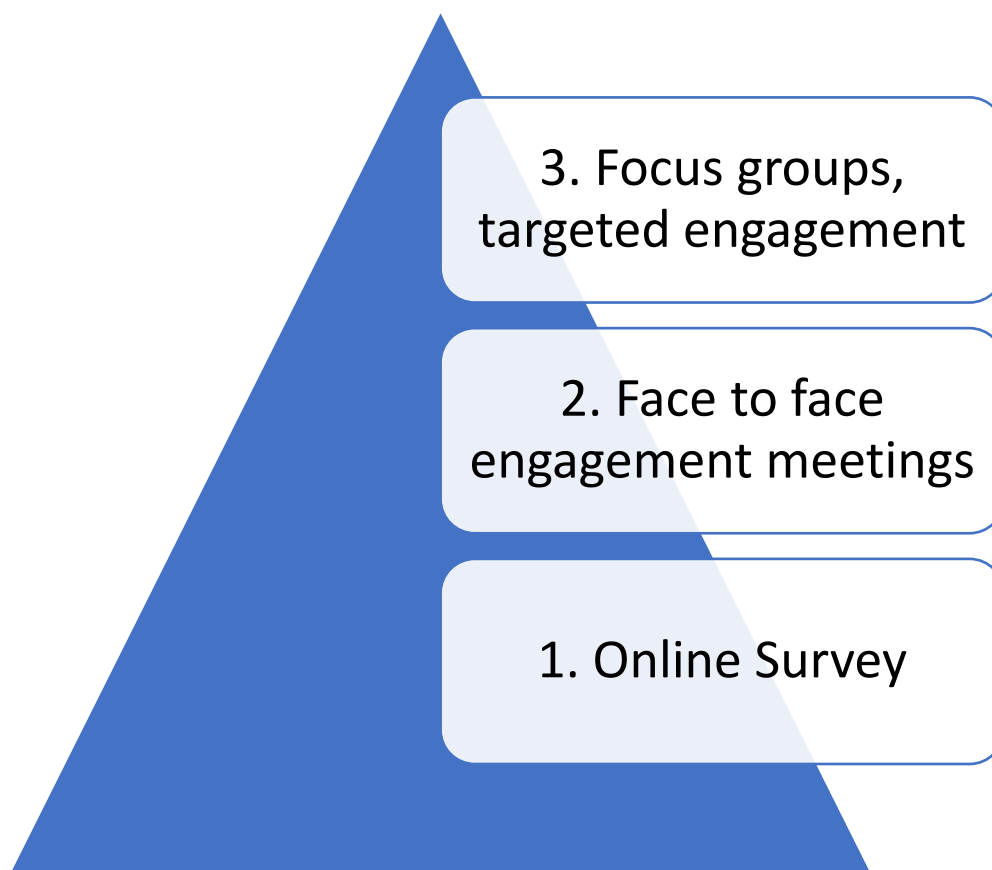
There are many examples, both within North Somerset and elsewhere that demonstrate that a constructive dialogue with stakeholders, service users and local communities can result in better, more efficient and more valued services. Empowered local people can often find a way to enhance local services, and strong communities result in many benefits including better health outcomes and a better-quality local environment.

The Your Neighbourhood consultation, which runs from 13 February 2020 to 7th May 2020, aims to understand which services are most valued by local people, and to understand

what opportunities there are to work in partnership locally to enhance what the council is able to offer.

In order to do this, we are undertaking a comprehensive consultation process, which involves three levels of consultation and engagement

1. An online survey option which will be widely promoted to all stakeholders and within which everyone can have their say about the way they use and experience services.
2. Face-to-face engagement via public meetings and through Town and Parish Councils
3. Targeted additional engagement to encourage participation from people who may not usually engage with the council on consultations



Feedback from the consultation will be used to shape service strategies for libraries, leisure and sports centres, waste and parks; to form the service specification for the new street cleansing and parks maintenance delivery; and to inform how the garden waste collection service charges are implemented and to guide the work on home and community composting.

4. CONSULTATION

The online survey is live – direct link is www.n-somerset.gov.uk/yourneighbourhood.

Stakeholders are invited to participate in local meetings as follows – places can be booked via Eventbrite:

6-8pm, 9 March, Nailsea Tithe Barn, [Nailsea](#)

6-8pm, 12 March, Somerset Hall, [Portishead](#)
6-8pm, 17 March, The Barn, [Clevedon](#)
6-8pm, 18 March, Yatton Library & Children's Centre, [Yatton](#)
5-7pm, 24 March, Long Ashton Community Centre, [Long Ashton](#)
6-8pm, 26 March, Winscombe Community Centre, [Winscombe](#)
6-8pm, 31 March, The Campus, [Weston-super-Mare](#)

The consultation runs between 13 February 2020 to 7 May 2020. A consultation report reviewing all feedback from online and face to face interactions will be produced at the end of the consultation period.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Your Neighbourhood consultation is being delivered using existing resources within the service teams.

Costs

Up to £1000 on venue hire and refreshments.

Funding

Existing revenue fund budgets

6. LEGAL POWERS AND IMPLICATIONS

Section 3 of the Local Government Act 1999 requires an authority "to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the way in which its functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness" ("the best value duty"). It also obliges the authority to consult certain groups of persons "for the purpose of deciding how to fulfil the duty" (s.3(2)). The Your Neighbourhood consultation comprehensively delivers this duty.

7. CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no significant climate change and environmental implications of undertaking the Your Neighbourhood consultation. While paper copies of information and surveys will be available, these will be limited whenever possible. Staff and attendees at events will be encouraged to use sustainable transport.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT

The Your Neighbourhood consultation has been assessed as low risk.

9. EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

The Your Neighbourhood consultation has been designed to ensure that it is accessible by all equality groups and protected characteristics. Organisations representing equalities groups will be targeted as part of the targeted part of the consultation and engagement.

10. CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

The Your Neighbourhood consultation is being delivered within existing resources.

11. OPTIONS CONSIDERED

None

AUTHOR

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APPENDICES

None

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None