

North Somerset Council

REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY AND CORPORATE ORGANISATION POLICY AND SCRUTINY PANEL

DATE OF MEETING: 4TH MARCH 2021

SUBJECT OF REPORT: YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT – UPDATE AND ACTIONS

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 note the actions undertaken as a result of Your Neighbourhood consultation and engagement.

1. SUMMARY OF REPORT

Community and Corporate Organisation (CCO) Policy and Scrutiny Panel received a report on 16th July 2020 which contained a summary of the outcomes of the Your Neighbourhood consultation and engagement, an overview of the proposed next steps, and a discussion about the role of scrutiny in the emerging action planning.

The services covered by the Your Neighbourhood work were 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.

CCO subgroups and focus sessions were arranged to input into the action planning for each of the areas covered by the Your Neighbourhood Work. These are set out in section 3 of this report.

2. POLICY

This delivers policies outlined in the North Somerset Council Corporate Plan.

3. DETAILS

The table below outlines the actions that have been undertaken since the scrutiny meeting on 16th July 2020, the role that CCO scrutiny panel have taken, and the next steps for the various pieces of work.

Work area	Scrutiny role	Actions	Next steps
Garden Waste	Waste subgroup input	Process and engagement for charging for garden waste has been designed. Residents will be notified from early March. Payment system and discounts agreed and in place. Composting support and equipment offer in place	Implement charging scheme from 1 st April 2021. Develop and expand composting initiatives and uptake.
Leisure and sports centres	Leisure subgroup – task and finish group	Leisure strategy written and formally adopted by NSC executive in December 2021.	Action plan to deliver leisure strategy from March 2021. Engage with local councils and local communities.
Libraries	Libraries focussed scrutiny engagement session	Libraries strategy written and formally adopted by NSC executive in February 2021.	Action plan to deliver libraries strategy from March 2021. Engage with local councils and local communities.
Parks and Open Spaces	Parks and open spaces focussed engagement session	Contract extension agreed with council purchasing some vehicles. Green Infrastructure strategy drafted for consultation. Portishead Lake Grounds partnership work underway.	Review of contract for long term solution 2021. Engage with local councils and local communities.
Street Cleansing	Waste subgroup	Contract extension agreed with council purchasing some vehicles. Additional enforcement support being procured. Waste strategy development underway.	Review of contract for long term solution 2021. Cleansing scrutiny session to be arranged. Waste strategy consultation due

			from April/May 2021. Engage with local councils and local communities.
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The intention of the Your Neighbourhood work was 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 initiate 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.

Much work has taken place to deliver against the first objective articulated above.

The next phase of the Your Neighbourhood work will include continued focussed scrutiny engagement with all of the work areas, and will also concentrate on building a new way of working at a more local level – this will be developed alongside the unlocking of the Covid restrictions that is due to take place in 2021.

4. CONSULTATION

The Your Neighbourhood consultation ran between 13 February 2020 and 7 May 2020. A consultation report reviewing all feedback has been produced and published. This consultation and input from scrutiny has been fundamental in delivering the actions outlined in this report.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

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

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

Climate change and environmental implications are a fundamental part of all of the strategies and actions that are emerging from the Your Neighbourhood work. The services involved have a significant contribution to make to the council's Climate Emergency plans – for example the leisure and libraries strategy action plans will require energy efficiency measures, renewable energy and sustainable transport to be a fundamental part of any future proposals for the delivery of these services. The composting initiatives as part of the Garden Waste charging scheme can have a positive impact where the uptake is high through reducing both residual waste and transport required for transporting waste. The

way that parks, open spaces and green infrastructure are managed and developed has a fundamental impact on the local environment and biodiversity.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT

The work emerging from the Your Neighbourhood consultation is significant and each of the emerging action plans will have its own risk management analysis developed at the relevant decision making points.

9. EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

The Your Neighbourhood consultation was designed to ensure that it is accessible by all equality groups and protected characteristics. There was a plan in place to comprehensively engage with organisations representing equalities, however this plan was not fully delivered and only one session with the disability forum took place. Engagement with representative groups will be prioritised throughout the future phases of the work.

10. CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

None

11. OPTIONS CONSIDERED

None

AUTHOR

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APPENDICES

None

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None