

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Work Programme – Addendum

9 July 2014

Report of Chief Executive

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To request that Overview and Scrutiny Committee consider the draft Consultation Strategy before this is reported to the Leader (relevant portfolio holder).

This report is public.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) **To consider and comment on the draft Consultation Strategy before this is reported to the Leader of the Council (relevant portfolio holder).**

1.0 Introduction

A review of the council's Consultation Policy and Annual Consultation Plan has been carried out, in light of the major financial challenges that the council is facing.

As a result, the Consultation Policy has become an internal guidance document and a Consultation Strategy has been drafted.

2.0 Draft Consultation Strategy

The draft Consultation Strategy has been created in line with the council's financial context and equality duties.

Overview and Scrutiny are asked to comment before the draft Consultation Strategy is reported to the Leader of the Council (relevant portfolio holder).

Future Council Consultation Plan

Consultations can be split into statutory, budgetary and discretionary. However, all consultations take place to inform service decision making and therefore inform the budget in some way.

In future, the council's annual consultation plan will be incorporated into the corporate/service planning process and will be considered by Management Team before approval by the Leader of the Council. This will help ensure that the council's shrinking resources are being used in the most cost effective manner to deliver our approved priorities and agreed standards of service.

Once the draft Consultation Strategy has been approved, a 2014/15 consultation plan will be drafted which Overview and Scrutiny may wish to consider.

Please note: the consultation plan will continue to evolve throughout the year eg new statutory requirements etc.

3.0 Conclusion

Overview and Scrutiny Committee are asked to consider the draft Consultation Strategy before this is reported to the Leader (relevant portfolio holder).

CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT

(including Health & Safety, Equality & Diversity, Human Rights, Community Safety, Sustainability and Rural Proofing)

The draft Consultation Strategy highlights that the council is committed to providing good value for money services that put the community at the heart of everything it does. However, it also highlights that it is unlikely that the council will be able to continue to do everything that it currently does, this is likely to impact the community and will need to be assessed on an individual basis.

The Strategy highlights that consultation will take place when the council is thinking about buying or stopping paying for service provided by voluntary and community groups or small businesses.

The council's equalities duties are referenced within the draft Consultation Strategy and the consultation principles encourage accessible and inclusive consultations.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no legal implications directly arising from this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no additional financial implications for the Council arising directly from this report / draft Consultation Strategy.

The draft Consultation Strategy has been developed in light of the major financial challenges that the council is facing and the need to ensure that the council's shrinking resources are used in the most cost effective manner to deliver its approved priorities and agreed standards of service.

For any consultation undertaken by the Council, a specific budget will need to be identified by the relevant lead Service prior to entering into any financial commitment.

OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Human Resources:

No implications.

Information Services:

No implications.

Property:

No implications.

Open Spaces:

No implications, although future open space consultations will need to adhere to the approved Consultation Strategy.

SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Section 151 Officer has been consulted and has no further comments.

MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Monitoring Officer has been consulted and has no further comments.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.

Contact Officer: Jennifer Milligan

Telephone: 01524 582268

E-mail: jmilligan@lancaster.gov.uk