

Recommendation to Cabinet by the Performance and Corporate Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 17th January 2022

Consultation and Engagement Strategy 2022 - 2025

That it be recommended to Cabinet that:

1) due consideration be given to the role of consultation and engagement as a key part of an ongoing democratic process that involves listening to residents, not solely in order to canvass views and determine preferences, but also to ensure that their voices are heard as citizens,

2) that an indicative protocol should be produced to indicate which strategies will be deployed when and

3) that, as an addendum to an indicative protocol, a specific, detailed strategy be drawn up to include Active Travel schemes, given their effect on local areas. Such a strategy should include consideration of:

- the capacity of the council to deliver representative polling in line with the British Polling Council standards, as set out in the updated Department for Transport Network Management Duty Guidance,
- consideration of the stakeholders that the DfT recommends councils should engage with at an early stage of active travel projects in the Network Management Duty Guidance,
- how active travel plans should be co-designed with local residents and businesses,
- transparent data collection and sharing with the public for active travel projects with opendata standards,
- how live project updates are communicated in a timely and accurate manner to the public,
- how to ensure consultations are secure and robust against potential interference,
- whether the existing digital tools the County Council has access to have the required technical features to deliver the heightened communication, consultation, engagement and digital security needs, as set out above,
- how best to engage with local councillors, bearing in mind their specific knowledge of a local area.