

Notice of:	EXECUTIVE
Decision Number:	EX38/2022
Relevant Officer:	Antony Lockley, Director of Strategy
Relevant Cabinet Member	Councillor Jo Farrell, Cabinet Member for Adult Services, and Community Health and Wellbeing
Date of Meeting	10 October 2022

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

1.0 Purpose of the report:

- 1.1 To consider the newly developed Community Engagement Framework, coproduced across departments, stakeholders, members and residents.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

- 2.1 To approve the Community Engagement Framework for use within the Council for 5 years until 31 December 2027, with a review after a maximum of two years to address any lessons learned or changes to local, regional or national approaches/ requirements.
- 2.2 To request the Group Company Secretary to raise the framework with all the Council's wholly owned companies.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

- 3.1 To clarify the Council wide approach to engagement with communities and develop a consistent framework within which services can work when seeking to engage with the community.

A lack of consistency of approach, and understanding of the tools available was a weakness highlighted by an Audit in 2018.

The framework has been developed with key partners who asked that it be an accessible, practical tool to help them to ensure that they were taking the right approach.

- 3.2 Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No

3.3 Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? Yes

4.0 Other alternative options to be considered:

4.1 The Executive could not adopt the framework which would mean that the audit concerns remain unaddressed.

5.0 Council priority:

5.1 The relevant Council priority is: "Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience"

6.0 Background information

6.1 The 2018 Audit of community engagement highlighted disparities between the type and quality of engagement undertaken within the Council. It was recommended that an approach be developed to streamline engagement and a steering group developed to have oversight of activity in order to influence and shape.

6.2 Initially, a strategic document was developed and socialised in a number of forums. As part of the structured feedback stakeholders asked that the document be reshaped in to a practical supportive framework to aid delivery, and members asked that there be greater community input evident in the process of development.

6.3 This feedback was taken, and the framework developed that is now presented. Particular input came from HealthWatch Blackpool who gathered rigorous independent feedback (Appendix 2c) and constructive challenge to inform the final iteration.

6.4 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

7.0 List of Appendices:

7.1 Appendix 2a: Community Engagement Framework
Appendix 2b: Engagement Planning Checklist
Appendix 2c: Feedback on the Community Engagement Framework from Healthwatch Blackpool

8.0 Financial considerations:

8.1 None.

9.0 Legal considerations:

9.1 Community engagement is not a substitute for formal Consultation – which has a formal and defined meaning and is sometimes a requirement of Council business. Should the matter be referred for further consideration, any legal matters arising will be covered.

10.0 Risk management considerations:

10.1 Engagement if undertaken poorly can be detrimental to organisational reputation. This document and associated documents have been created to reduce the risk of that and ensure staff are properly supported

11.0 Equalities considerations:

11.1 Care has been taken to ensure that the Community Engagement framework encourages engagement with all communities and in particular, those who are seldom heard.

12.0 Sustainability, climate change and environmental considerations:

12.1 None.

13.0 Internal/external consultation undertaken:

13.1 Consultation took place through the Voluntary Community and Faith Sector via a Community briefing meeting in April 2022 and through direct consultation with Healthwatch. A number of Focus Groups were held included at Cherry Tree Community Centre, Kilmory Community Centre, Revo Hub, @TheGrange, Boston Way Community Centre in May 2022 Resident Drop in sessions were held at Blackpool Sports Centre, Anchorsholme Library, Palatine Sports Centre, @TheGrange, Moor Park Library, Moor Park Leisure Centre, Palatine Library also in May 2022

14.0 Background papers:

14.1 None.

15.0 Key decision information:

15.1 Is this a key decision? Yes

15.2 If so, Forward Plan reference number: 10/2022

15.3 If a key decision, is the decision required in less than five days? No

15.4 If **yes**, please describe the reason for urgency:

16.0 Call-in information:

16.1 Are there any grounds for urgency, which would cause this decision to be exempt from the call-in process? No

16.2 If **yes**, please give reason:

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE

17.0 Scrutiny Committee Chairman (where appropriate):

Date informed: 30 September 2022 Date approved:

18.0 Declarations of interest (if applicable):

18.1 None.

19.0 Summary of Discussion:

19.1 Ms Kate Aldridge, Head of Corporate Delivery, Performance and Commissioning presented the framework to the Executive outlining that such a framework had been required to ensure a consistency of approach to consultation. Ms Aldridge further highlighted the important role that the relevant Scrutiny Committee and Healthwatch had played in helping to shape the framework. Once approved the framework would also be shared with the Council's wholly owned companies to engender a consistent approach to consultation.

20.0 Executive decision:

20.1 The Executive agreed the recommendations as outlined above namely:

1. To approve the Community Engagement Framework for use within the Council for 5 years until 31 December 2027, with a review after a maximum of two years to address any lessons learned or changes to local, regional or national approaches/ requirements.
2. To request the Group Company Secretary to raise the framework with all the Council's wholly owned companies.

21.0 Date of Decision:

21.1 10 October 2022

22.0 Reason(s) for decision:

22.1 To clarify the Council wide approach to engagement with communities and develop a consistent framework within which services can work when seeking to engage with the community.

A lack of consistency of approach, and understanding of the tools available was a weakness highlighted by an Audit in 2018.

The framework has been developed with key partners who asked that it be an accessible, practical tool to help them to ensure that they were taking the right approach.

23.0 Date Decision published:

23.1 11 October 2022

24.0 Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

24.1 The Executive noted that it could choose not to adopt the framework but that this action would mean that the audit concerns remain unaddressed.

25.0 Executive Members in attendance:

25.1 Councillor L Williams, in the Chair

Councillors Brookes, Campbell, Farrell, Hobson, Hugo and Smith

26.0 Call-in:

26.1

27.0 Notes:

27.1 The following non-Executive member was in attendance: Councillor Hunter