

REPORT TO:	FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM: 12
DATE OF MEETING:	15 th JUNE 2017	CATEGORY: DELEGATED
REPORT FROM:	DIRECTOR OF FINANCE & CORPORATE SERVICES	OPEN
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SUBJECT:	CONSULTATION ANNUAL REPORT 2016/17	
WARD (S) AFFECTED:	ALL	TERMS OF REFERENCE:

1.0 **Recommendations**

1.1 To note the key consultation achievements for 2016/17 in **Appendix A**.

1.2 To agree the consultation action plan for 2017/18 in **Appendix B**.

2.0 **Purpose of Report**

2.1 To present the annual consultation report for 2016/17, detailing how our consultation activities supported the delivery of key priorities.

3.0 **Executive Summary**

3.1 Effective consultation with residents, service users, businesses and voluntary groups remains a priority. Robust systems and processes to assess and apply feedback ensure resources are directed to community priorities.

3.2 The Government's agenda continues to assert rights for residents to have more information and influence over local decision-making. This provides an opportunity to get involved in shaping how services are delivered.

4.0 **Detail**

4.1 Consultation and engagement are a key part of our approach to improve the quality and effectiveness of the services we provide.

4.2 The key outcomes achieved during 2016/17 are outlined below:

May 2016 – Residents were given the opportunity to comment on the second phase of a process to establish whether or not a **new Parish Council** would be created in Newhall and Stanton.

June and July 2016 - A series of drop-in events to give members of the public the opportunity to comment on the **Local Plan Part 2** took place in locations including Aston, Goseley, Repton and Swadlincote.

July 2016 - Extensive consultation, led by People Express, was carried out to gather opinion from people, businesses and community groups to develop designs for the **Diana Memorial Garden**, in Swadlincote.

July 2016 - A **Community Governance Review** was undertaken following a joint request from Barrow upon Trent Parish Council and Stenson Fields Parish Council to change their parish boundaries.

July 2016 - Consultation on the potential introduction of a **Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO)** for Swadlincote town centre was launched. A drop-in event was organised and people could comment via the website or in writing. Further consultation, such as at public and parish council meetings, was carried out as PSPO powers were extended across the District to cover areas including Church Gresley, Hilton and the new Melbourne Sports Park, where dogs must be kept on leads.

October 2016 – the third round of **Local Plan** consultation saw drop-in events organised to give people a chance to view/comment on the pre-submission documents. In addition to drop-ins, reference copies of the documents were made available in all local libraries.

November 2016 - A questionnaire was circulated to every household in Findern to find out what residents wanted on the **Hillside Recreation Ground** in terms of play/recreation equipment and landscaping. A working group has been created with the parish council and local residents to improve facilities.

November 2016 – Outdoor Gym at Eureka Park, Swadlincote: A user group was consulted and three consultation events/meetings were organised to select gym equipment and the preferred supplier. The consultation included a visit to another park to try out equipment.

January 2017 - informal consultation took place over several evenings from January to March to find out what activities and events young people would like to do on **Eureka Park**. A multi-agency Youth Festival took place in May, informed by the consultation responses.

4.3 The usual channels – press releases, Area Forums and the website - have offered a useful foundation on which to build. Social media, including Twitter, has been used to signpost people to documents. In some cases this has led to two, three and four way conversations with groups and individuals wishing to offer their opinion or make suggestions.

4.4 Other consultations that took place during year include:

- National Forest Walking Festival Evaluation
- Reasons people follow SDDC on social media platforms

- Proposals for new parliamentary constituency (led by the Boundary Commission for England)
- Opinions and feedback on our financial plans for 2017/18 were sought at Area Forums

5.0 Looking ahead to 2017/18

We will continue to focus on embedding a culture of engagement across our functions and promote how people can 'have their say'. We'll also make best possible use of the new look website to get feedback on policies and practice. Higher level consultation activities for 2017/18 are featured in **Appendix B**.

6.0 Financial Implications

- 6.1 Any associated consultation costs during 2017/18 will be contained within existing budgets and resources.

7.0 Corporate Implications

- 7.1 This report is linked to our 'Outcomes' theme in the Corporate Plan and the aim to 'maintain customer focus'. Our values state we will 'actively listen' to residents to help make South Derbyshire a better place to live, work and visit.

8.0 Community Implications

- 8.1 This report is linked to the 'vibrant communities' theme within the South Derbyshire Partnership's Sustainable Community Strategy. A key outcome is to improve public involvement in our decision-making processes.

9.0 Conclusion

- 9.1 Our consultation and engagement programme continues to involve citizens and stakeholders in the decision-making process. This ensures their views are taken into account in improving our services and inform the development of our policies.

10.0 Background Papers

- 10.1 None