

## **SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO:** Overview and Scrutiny Committee

**DATE:** 14 March 2019

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**WARDS:** All

### **PART I** **FOR COMMENT AND CONSIDERATION**

#### **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND CONSULTATION – A ONE COUNCIL APPROACH**

1. **Purpose of Report**

To share with the Committee a One Council approach to community engagement and consultation and seek their views on how this can be strengthened.

2. **Recommendation(s)/Proposed Action**

That the Committee:

- a) Provide comments on the One Council approach to community engagement and consultation
- b) Note how the approach has been developed based on best practice and case studies including Manor Park

3. **The Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy, the JSNA and the Five Year Plan**

- 3.1 The One Council approach will be used across the Council for community engagement and consultation to support delivery of the priorities and outcomes in the Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy and Five Year Plan:

Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy:

- 1. Protecting vulnerable children
- 2. Increasing life expectancy by focusing on inequalities
- 3. Improving mental health and wellbeing
- 4. Housing

Five Year Plan outcomes:

- 1. Slough children will grow up to be happy, healthy and successful
- 2. Our people will be healthier and manage their own care needs
- 3. Slough will be an attractive place where people choose to live, work and stay
- 4. Our residents will live in good quality homes
- 5. Slough will attract, retain and grow businesses and investment to provide jobs and opportunities for our residents

## 4 **Other Implications**

(a) Financial – None.

(b) Risk Management - There are no identified risks associated with the proposed actions.

(c) Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications - There are no direct legal implications. Specific community engagement and consultation activity may have legal implications which will be brought to the attention of Cabinet separately. There are no Human Rights Act Implications.

(d) Equalities Impact Assessment - There is no requirement to complete an Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA) in relation to this report. EIAs will however be required as part of specific community engagement or consultation activity.

## 5 **Supporting Information**

- 5.1 The One Council approach to community engagement and consultation has been developed by a cross council project group led by Ketan Gandhi, Service Lead Communities and Leisure.
- 5.2 The Council recognised the need for greater coordination and consistency in the way in which it consulted and engaged with communities. The intention of the new One Council approach is to reduce duplication and prevent 'consultation fatigue'. We also know that as an organisation we need to improve the way in which we subsequently feed back to communities and residents the outcome of the consultation or engagement.
- 5.3 The project team looked at best practice as well as successful case studies including Manor Park to develop the new approach.
- 5.4 The One Council group has produced a tool kit to support staff when thinking about engaging with communities. The purpose of the tool kit is to ensure consistent good practice across the council, avoid duplication and join up services so that we make the most of every engagement. See Appendix A.
- 5.5 In February 2019 a series of training session informing staff about the tool kit have been undertaken and further sessions will be planned later this year. These sessions have included services from every directorate across the cross.
- 5.6 In addition to community engagement, we are also actively linked to a wide range of community and voluntary sector organisations who we help to support and develop via our community development team and other relevant services in the council.
- 5.7 As part of our transformation work, we are currently undertaking a review of our partnership with the community and voluntary sector and as part of this engagement with our communities feature highly.
- 5.8 Moving forward, the Council is rolling out its stronger, healthier and attractive neighbourhoods initiative which is going live shortly in the following areas:

Trelawney Ave, Foxborough and Chalvey. The initiative looks to enhance existing areas and improve services with the support of local residents.

We have seen in areas such as Manor Park how community organising and social action approaches have significant potential to achieve wider change where linked into local and national campaigns. In order for us to begin the process we are gathering views of residents through community engagement activity.

6 **Comments of Other Committees**

No other Committees have been consulted at this stage.

7 **Conclusion**

The One Council approach to community engagement and consultation marks an important step in improving a key aspect of the Council's activity and the views of the Committee will enable further improvement to be made as we roll out and embed the approach.

8 **Appendices Attached**

Appendix A: Community consultation and engagement toolkit

9 **Background Papers**

None.