

Key Decision Required:	No	In the Forward Plan:	No
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CABINET

17 MAY 2013

REPORT OF PLANNING AND CORPORATE SERVICES PORTFOLIO HOLDER

A.13 Consultation with Residents

(Report prepared by Karen Neath)

PART 1 – KEY INFORMATION

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To provide information to Cabinet in relation to consultation with residents following the explanation of a motion to Cabinet by Councillor Talbot.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- At the meeting of Cabinet on 19th April, Councillor Talbot provided further explanation on a motion that he had moved at the Council meeting on 26th March.
- The Council undertakes regular and statutory consultation on a number of areas.
- The Council has also recently undertaken consultation on a number of specific issues.
- In explanation of his motion Councillor Talbot made particular reference to the ability of residents in non parished areas to make their views known. Evidence shows that the District Council does communicate directly with residents on important issues giving the public an opportunity to comment regardless of whether they live in a parished or non parished area.
- Cabinet is asked to consider Councillor Talbot's motion in light of the information provided in the report in order to determine its recommendation back to full Council.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

It is recommended that Cabinet determines its recommendation to Council on Councillor Talbot's motion.

PART 2 – IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION

DELIVERING PRIORITIES

Consultation whether with residents or with other bodies and organisations ensures that the Council can make informed decisions.

FINANCE, OTHER RESOURCES AND RISK

Finance and other resources

The cost and resourcing of individual consultation exercises will be considered at the time the consultation is undertaken.

Risk

There is a risk that, if proper consultation is not carried out, ill-informed decisions can be made.

LEGAL

Where appropriate consultation will be undertaken in accordance with the relevant legal requirements.

OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Consideration has been given to the implications of the proposed decision in respect of the following and any significant issues are set out below.

Crime and Disorder / Equality and Diversity / Health Inequalities / Area or Ward affected / Consultation/Public Engagement.

Individual considerations will be taken into account as each consultation exercise is carried out.

PART 3 – SUPPORTING INFORMATION

BACKGROUND

At the meeting of Cabinet on 19th April, Councillor Talbot provided further explanation on a motion that he had moved at the Council meeting on 26th March. The motion reads as follows:-

“This Tendring District Council expresses its deep concern that proper and adequate consultation with residents is absent from some of the actions taken by our Cabinet and its Members.

As a particular example the consultation process on a new Doctors surgery for residents in Holland-on-Sea, refuses to consult with residents over their requirements for this much needed facility.

Holland-on-Sea has a very large and active Residents Association and has three elected members to this District Council, but notwithstanding this level of resident participation in this area of Tendring, the Cabinet have not sought the opinion of residents even when consultation with third parties are undertaken about the projected new surgery.

This Full Council maintains that ignoring our residents in this way is counterproductive and against our general principle of involving our community, expressed in many statements and policy publications made and produced by our Council.

This Tendring District Council therefore instructs its Cabinet to include meaningful consultation with its residents, when any project of major significance to a particular group of residents is considered. Such consultation, in particular discussions with any third party organisation, shall be held before decisions are made and not afterwards, so that residents’ views may be taken into account and included in any final proposal from the Cabinet.”

Following explanation of the motion it was resolved:

“That a further report be submitted to the next meeting of the Cabinet in order to enable Cabinet to make a recommendation to Council on Councillor Talbot’s motion.”

CONSULTATION WITH RESIDENTS

The Council undertakes consultation with residents on a number of differing issues. The nature of consultation can range from online questionnaires and surveys to large scale displays, meetings, face to face communication and workshops to extensive statutory consultation.

The Council undertakes regular and statutory consultation on a number of areas including:

- A draft of the Local Plan was available for public consultation between November 2012 and January 2013;
- The Council engages with the Tenants Panel and several tenant sub groups on issues related to our housing stock, including prioritisation of expenditure and policy changes;
- Liaison with Town and Parish Councils on relevant issues e.g. asset management, planning application;
- An annual budget consultation exercise is undertaken via the Council's website.

The Council has, over the last year, also undertaken consultation on a number of specific issues, of which some amongst others are:-

- The Cabinet has held four public meetings to meet with residents and answer questions. Two further meetings are booked and Cabinet are looking to hold more after that.
- An exhibition on the options for coastal defence and improvement works along the seafront was held in the Town Hall together with a 2 week exhibition at Holland-on-Sea as well as the options being out for public consultation;
- The Council has facilitated an exhibition in Holland about the possibilities for a new local doctors' surgery.
- A survey of local business to inform the resident permit parking scheme for 2013;
- A survey of users experiences of the Council's car parks;
- A survey of local food establishments to gauge support for the introduction of the national food hygiene rating scheme;
- A meeting with Members and officers was held with residents of Colne Way, Point Clear regarding planning conditions in accordance with a response given to a question at full Council;
- Public online questionnaire and questionnaire to Town and Parish Councils to gather information on issues affecting rural communities;
- A survey of users and non-users of leisure centres in 2012 to prioritise improvements resulting in major investment at Dovercourt Leisure Centre.

In explanation of his motion Councillor Talbot made particular reference to the ability of residents in non parished areas to make their views known. The examples of consultation set out above provide evidence that the District Council does communicate directly with residents on important issues giving the public an opportunity to comment regardless of whether they live in a parished or non parished area.

However, Cabinet is asked to consider Councillor Talbot's motion in light of the information provided above in order to determine its recommendation back to full Council.

BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR THE DECISION

None

APPENDICES

None
