

Report on	Policy (draft) on Consultation
Date of Meeting	Thursday 6 th February 2020
Reporting Officer	P Moffett, Head of Democratic Services
Contact Officer	M McSorley, Corporate Policy & Equality Officer

Is this report restricted for confidential business?	Yes	
If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	No	X

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	The purpose of the report is to seek approval from elected members on the draft consultation policy
2.0	Background
2.1	The council undertakes and provides a plethora of services through its many services delivered across the district.
2.2.	The Council, as a public service provider, strives to ensure that the services it provides are both responsive and indeed delivered in such a way that the needs of its customers are fulfilled. To inform the delivery of its services and functions the Council will on occasion consult with local people and groups about its policies and services to improve the Council's services and ensure that they meet the varied needs.
2.3	The Council is committed to undertaking consultation to assist it in the development of its policies, plans and strategies, when required. A Consultation Policy outlining the principles it will follow in undertaking consultation to seek the views of its service users has been developed for the consideration and approval of Committee.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p>A draft consultation policy is attached as Appendix A to this report. The policy provides council officers with a direction on undertaking and approaching consultation, setting out the minimum principles for effective consultation as recommended by the Executive Office of the Northern Ireland Assembly and the Cabinet Office. The policy objectives, as detailed within 3.2 of the policy, centre on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> communicating Council's strategic commitment to appropriate and effective consultation

3.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • providing guidance to staff to help them undertake appropriate and inclusive consultation that maximizes feedback and improves decision making • ensuring consistency of approach across Council functions and adoption of best practice <p>A detailed guidance document will complement the policy as a point of reference for council officers to help them consider the appropriateness for and how they should approach the organisation of consultations, if deemed required.</p>
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	Financial: arrangements being delivered within existing resource
	Human: arrangements being delivered within existing resource
	Risk Management: none directly identified with the outworking of this policy
4.2	<u>Screening & Impact Statements</u>
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: Screening has been undertaken and it has been screened out for the need for an equality impact assessment
	Rural Needs Implications: A rural needs assessment has been undertaken and consideration given to consultative approaches being applicable and suitable for rural areas
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	It is recommended that the committee approved the draft Consultation Policy for Mid Ulster District Council, detailed as part of this report.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
	<p>Appendix A - Consultation Policy (draft)</p> <p>Appendix B – Equality Screening & Rural Needs Assessment</p>