

<b>Report on</b>	Updated Policy on Consultation
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	13 June 2023
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Joe McGuckin, Head of Strategic Services & Engagement
<b>Contact Officer</b>	Ann McAleer, Policy Engagement and Equality Officer

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	The purpose of the report is to inform elected members on the updated Policy on Consultation.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	This policy was developed and subsequently approved in February 2020.
2.2.	In accordance with the Council's policy review cycle, this policy has been reviewed to reflect organisational change within the Council. However no substantive changes have been to the original policy.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	<p>A revised Policy on Consultation is attached as Appendix A to this report. As per the original policy, it 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"> <li>• communicating Council's strategic commitment to appropriate and effective consultation</li> <li>• providing guidance to staff to help them undertake appropriate and inclusive consultation that maximises feedback and improves decision making</li> <li>• ensuring consistency of approach across Council functions and adoption of best practice</li> </ul>

<b>4.0</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
<b>4.1</b>	<b>Financial, Human Resources &amp; Risk Implications</b>
	Financial: arrangements being delivered within existing resource.
	Human: arrangements being delivered within existing resource.
	Risk Management: No risks currently identified.
<b>4.2</b>	<b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b>
	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.
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
5.1	It is recommended that the committee note the Revised Policy on Consultation.
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>
	Appendix A - Revised Policy on Consultation