

CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL.

**Democratic Services Scrutiny Committee
Date 17 February 2023**

Report Author: County Councillor James Gibson-Watt
Leader and Portfolio Holder for an Open and Transparent Powys

Lead Officer: Catherine James

Report Title: Public Participation Strategy

Report For: Decision

1. Purpose

1.1 The Public Participation Strategy has been previously seen by Democratic Services committee during Autumn 2022, however following a 12-week public consultation, it has been updated and is now ready for final approval and publication.

2. Background

- 2.1 Welsh Government requires local authorities to prepare and publish a strategy (“a public participation strategy”) specifying how it proposes to comply with the duty in Chapter 2, Section 39 of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 – a duty to encourage local people to participate in decision-making by principal councils.
- 2.2 In preparing the strategy, councils must consult local people and such other persons as it considers appropriate.
- 2.3 The draft strategy for Powys was written, published, promoted and available for public consultation between Wednesday 21 September 2022 and Sunday 18 December 2022 and received a total of 119 responses.
- 2.4 The strategy has been updated based on the feedback from the consultation and is now ready for final approval before publication.

3. Advice

- 3.1 In line with the [Well-being of Future Generations \(Wales\) Act 2015 sustainable development principles](#), we want communities to feel supported, have a say in what is provided for them locally and feel they can play an active role in local service delivery, whilst also ensuring that the diversity of the county is reflected in what we do.
- 3.2 The Public Participation strategy focuses on engaging and working with the people of Powys, communities and businesses to promote and strengthen community relationships and provide resilience to help deliver our priorities.

3.3 The aims of this strategy are:

- We will embed a clear and consistent engagement approach that supports our vision for the future in Powys.
- We will empower staff and teams to build collaborative, trusted relationships with our communities, based on honesty, openness, and transparency.
- We will achieve a culture of participation with our communities by enabling people to voice their views, needs and wishes, and to contribute to plans, proposals, and decisions about services.
- We will use innovative, accessible approaches to communicate and engage with stakeholders by using a variety of media and clear language to suit their needs while maintaining and improving existing channels.
- We will ensure that we are actively seeking views from groups who are 'seldom heard'.
- We will measure and evaluate engagement effectively and report on how feedback has been used to shape and improve services.

3.4 The strategy includes the following topics:

- Legislative duty
- Glossary of terms
- Principles of consultation and engagement
- Creating awareness of what we do
- Generating interest in what we do
- Engaging and interacting with our services/work
- Reporting back to participants
- Measures of success

4. Recommendation

4.1 It is recommended that the Powys Public Participation Strategy is approved for publication and distribution through our main communication channels.

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