

# **FOR PUBLICATION**

## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY 2014-2017 (S320R)**

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MEETING:	1. COUNCIL 2. CABINET 3. EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR CUSTOMERS AND COMMUNITIES AS CONSULTEE
DATE:	1. 15/10/2014 2. 23/09/2014 3. 09/09/2014
REPORT BY:	POLICY OFFICER
WARD:	ALL
COMMUNITY ASSEMBLIES:	ALL

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FOR PUBLICATION

BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR PUBLIC REPORTS: None

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### 1.0 **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 To present for approval the Council's Community Engagement Strategy 2014-2017.

### 2.0 **RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 That the Community Engagement Strategy 2014-2017 be approved, and published.

### 3.0 **BACKGROUND**

3.1 Chesterfield Borough Council first produced a Community Engagement Strategy (formally known as the Public Participation Strategy) in 2000, the strategy has since been reviewed in 2003 and 2009. Over the years there have been considerable changes in legislative requirements and expectations on local authorities for community engagement and participation. The strategy has been updated for 2014-2017 in accordance with current community engagement legislation including: the Equalities Act (Public Sector Equality Duty, 2010), Best Value Guidance (Duty to Consult), and Consultation Principles Guidance (2013).

3.2 The Consultation Principles Guidance (2013) replaces the Code of Practice on Consultation issued in July 2008. The governing principle is proportionality of the type and scale of consultation to the potential impacts of the proposal or decision being taken, and on achieving real engagement rather than merely following bureaucratic process. Consultation forms part of wider engagement and decisions on whether and how to consult should in part depend on the wider scheme of engagement. Guidance on consultation subjects, timing, accessibility, transparency and practical considerations has been incorporated into the Strategy.

#### 4.0 **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY**

4.1 The Community Engagement Strategy (Appendix A) aims to provide a framework for the Council's community engagement activity and policy, including a set of standards. It also aims to improve the quality and accessibility of engagement opportunities for residents and the business community in the borough along with visitors.

3.3 The Council's Community Engagement Group, which includes elected members and officers from a range of different services, will be responsible for overseeing the development and implementation of the strategy. The group will produce an annual review of Community Engagement activity.

3.4 As part of the service planning process community engagement needs and opportunities for 2014/15 will be identified by services. These will be reviewed by the Community Engagement Group to ensure that resources are used effectively and duplication avoided.

#### 5.0 **CONSIDERATIONS**

5.1 Risk Management - This work concerns the implementation of statutory and good practice performance requirements. All relevant documents and reports have to be published and available for public scrutiny.

5.2 Equalities – a Preliminary Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken and no negative impacts are identified in relation to this strategy. The strategy includes provisions for meeting the Equality Act (Public Sector Equality Duty), breaking down data for protected equality groups, and ensuring equal access to community engagement for all protected groups. It is not anticipated that there will be a disproportionate impact on any protected group.

6.0 **RECOMMENDATIONS**

6.1 That the Community Engagement Strategy 2014-2017 be approved, and published.

7.0 **REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

7.1 To respond to relevant legislation and provide a corporate framework for community engagement activity across the Council.

K.MARSHALL  
POLICY OFFICER

Further information on this matter can be obtained from Katy Marshall (Extension 5247).

Officer recommendation supported.

*S.L. Blank.*

Signed

Lead Member

Date 08.09.2014

Consultee Lead Member/Support Member comments (if applicable)