



**OPEN REPORT
COUNCIL**

Council 28 November 2024

CONSULTATION & ENGAGEMENT PLAN 2024-26 AND 2022-24 OUTTURN

Report of Director of Corporate & Customer Services

Report Author and Contact Details

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Wards Affected

District-wide

Report Summary

The District Council published its Equality, Consultation & Engagement Plan in September 2022, which set out the proposed equality, consultation and engagement activities for the period 2022-24. This report provides a summary of the progress and achievements against the actions set out in the Consultation & Engagement Action Plan 2022-24.

This report also seeks approval for the new Consultation & Engagement Plan, covering the activities proposed for the period 2024-26.

Recommendations

1. That progress against the actions in the Consultation & Engagement Action Plan 2022-24 (Appendix 1) be noted.
2. That the proposed activities in the Consultation & Engagement Plan 2024-26 (Appendix 2) be approved.

List of Appendices

Appendix 1 Consultation & Engagement Action Plan outturn 2022-24

Appendix 2 Consultation & Engagement Plan 2024-26

Background Papers

None

Council Approval Required

Yes – new Consultation and Engagement Plan 2024-26

Exempt from Press or Public

No

Consultation & Engagement Action Plans 2022-24 and 2024-26

1. Background

- 1.1 Derbyshire Dales District Council's Consultation and Engagement Strategy 2021-27 was approved by the Governance and Resources Committee on 1 July 2021.
- 1.2 The District Council has a statutory duty to consult. For some services areas, public consultation is a statutory part of the relevant processes e.g. licensing, planning and housing. Elsewhere, the District Council has a general duty to consult stakeholders, as set out in Section 3 of the Local Government Act 1999.
- 1.3 The District Council's Consultation and Engagement Strategy has four objectives:
 1. To improve the performance of Council services
 2. To develop and evaluate the Council's policies, services and projects
 3. To inform the prioritisation of resources available to the Council
 4. To promote dialogue with local communities and enable local delivery of services where appropriate
- 1.4 Two-yearly Equality, Consultation and Engagement Plans have set out the consultation activities that services plan to undertake over the course of the period. The Consultation & Engagement Action Plan 2022-24 has now come to a close and progress against the actions specified is reported in Appendix 1 and below.
- 1.5 The Consultation & Engagement Plan 2024-26 sets out the proposed consultation and engagement activities for the next 2 years and is found as Appendix 2.
- 1.6 Derbyshire Dales District Council must also comply with the public sector equalities statutory duty. This comprises both a general equality duty and a specific duty. The District Council must comply with both. The general duty requires the District Council to have due regard in the exercise of all its functions to the need to:
 - Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation
 - Advance equality of opportunity between all persons
 - Foster good relations between all persons.
- 1.7 There are strong links and overlaps between the aims, priorities and actions of the Consultation and Engagement work and the Council's work on Equalities. Previously, the District Council has presented this work together but for the 2024-26 period, the outturns and future plans will be presented separately to allow easier consideration of the different elements.

2. Consultation and Engagement Action Plan 2022-24 Outturn

- 2.1 The Consultation and Engagement Action Plan 2022-24 set out a range of activities across all Directorates to be achieved over the 2-year period. A

number of performance measures and targets were set out – the majority of which have been achieved.

2.2 Full details of the Consultation & Engagement Action Plan 2022-24 outturn are set out in Appendix 1.

2.3 Successes to highlight include:

- Residents were surveyed on parking permits and the blue badge scheme, with the survey results available on the parking permits page on the DDDC website. As a result of the survey, the Council extended the hours the free permit operates.
- After consultation with Matlock Skate Park users throughout 2023-24, a new skate park will be installed in October 2024.
- The Residents' Survey was completed in February 2023. 1,977 responses were received, significantly exceeding the target of 1,500 responses. Satisfaction with DDDC services has increased slightly to 60% and 47% agreed that DDDC provides value for money, slightly higher than the 43% recorded in 2021. Overall satisfaction with the local area as a place to live was 86%, a slight increase from the 2021 survey.
- As part of the Local Plan, public consultation on Housing Options was undertaken in November 2022. Consultation on a New Approach to Housing as part of the Local Plan Review took place from May to June 2024.
- Residents were consulted on the installation of EV charging points in the area and the results published on the DDDC's EV information page, with a link to a further Derbyshire County Council consultation. 55% of residents would prefer to charge at home if they could with 30% preferring a mix of locations.
- Housing Needs Surveys were completed in Tissington and Fenny Bentley, Bakewell, Calver and Stoney Middleton during 2023-24.
- The Derbyshire Dales CEOs Forum was held in March 2024 with 23 business CEOs attending.
- East Midlands Chamber delivered seven workshops in the Derbyshire Dales and there has been a total of 772 bookings onto business workshops and webinars from the Derbyshire Dales.
- 706 survey responses were received regarding the 2023 Matlock Bath Illuminations. The responses were overall very positive, with 65%+ saying it was fabulous entertainment or a good night out. 2024 event innovations resulting from the survey include a new brochure and improved timings.

2.4 The following targets were not met fully:

- Area Community Forums are still under review.
- Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places - a report was submitted to Council in January 2024 and the review was due to commence. However, the February by-elections, the combined May elections and the snap general election meant there was no resource available to start. The review has now begun and will be reviewed by the G&R Committee in December 2024.

3. Consultation and Engagement Plan 2024-26

- 3.1 The Consultation and Engagement Plan 2024-26 sets out the planned range of activities for the 2-year period from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2026.
- 3.2 Consultation and engagement planned includes:
- Residents Survey 2025 – the two-yearly major corporate survey of residents is scheduled to be carried out in February and March 2025
 - Consultation on potential Traveller sites – residents, local businesses and the Traveller community will be consulted via online surveys and public meetings on potential suitable sites
 - Local Plan Review – consultation will be carried out in line with statutory requirements
 - Ashbourne Reborn consultations – both public engagement prior to improvement works and a baselining survey of residents and visitors perceptions of the town centre prior to improvement works are scheduled for Autumn 2024
 - Yearly budget consultations – statutory consultation will take place every year as required
 - Customer satisfaction and market research surveys – consultation will be carried out to engage with users of the waste and recycling service and leisure facilities to drive improvements
 - Statutory and non-statutory Licensing consultations – including gambling policy, street trading policy and taxi and private hire policy.

4. Consultation

- 4.1 The Consultation and Engagement Plan 2024-26 identifies consultation and engagement that will be led by Senior Managers.

5. Timetable for Implementation

- 5.1 The plans cover the period from April 2024 to end March 2026. They include a simple table to show the deadlines for implementing actions. Reports to Council will be made on progress annually.

6. Policy Implications

- 6.1 The plans link to the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy, and the Consultation Strategy 2020-27.

7. Financial and Resource Implications

- 7.1 Resources implications were considered at the time of adopting the plan and on an ongoing basis for individual actions across services.
- 7.2 The costs of addressing the statutory requirements in relation to consultation and engagement are contained within existing service budgets. As such the financial risk is low. However, failure to comply with the relevant statutory requirements may expose the District Council to legal challenge and therefore the potential for higher financial risks.

8. Legal Advice and Implications

8.1 This Council report provides a summary of the progress and achievements against the actions set out in the Consultation & Engagement Action Plan 2022-24.

8.2 There are 2 decisions recommended to be taken at the beginning of this report. Should the decisions be taken in line with the recommendations, the legal risk of challenge to these decisions has been assessed as low.

9. Equalities Implications

9.1 Equality Impact Assessments will be prepared for the proposals contained in the plan where necessary.

10. Climate Change and Biodiversity Implications

10.1 A CCIA is not necessary as much of the content of this report is reporting the results of past actions. The remainder of the report contains action plans. For each action consideration as to whether a CCIA is required will be made as the action is begun.

11. Risk Management

11.1 Risk assessments for each proposal contained within the Plan will be made as they are developed.

Report Authorisation

Approvals obtained from Statutory Officers: -

	Named Officer	Date
Chief Executive	Paul Wilson	19/11/2024
Director of Resources/ S.151 Officer (or Financial Services Manager)	Karen Henriksen	14/11/2024
Monitoring Officer (or Legal Services Manager)	Kerry France	20/11/2024