Borough of Pendle

REPORT FROM:	**CHIEF EXECUTIVE**
TO:	**POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE**
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COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To seek approval of the draft Community Engagement Framework for Pendle.

RECOMMENDATION

That the draft Community Engagement Framework be approved.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

To enable community engagement to be part of everything we do as a local authority and in our partnership working; help deliver the Strategic Plan; and encourage residents to influence decision making.

ISSUE

1. Community engagement was last included in a strategic document in 2005 under the Housing Market Renewal funded Neighbourhood Management programme. Citizen surveys in the intervening years have consistently shown a consistent lack of awareness about opportunities to be involved in decision making. That period has also seen a step change in how people communicate with each other and how organisations, including governmental organisations, communicate with people.

2. The attached draft Framework supports the Council's strategic vision, "Pendle is a place where quality of life continues to improve and where people respect one another and their neighbourhoods. We want Pendle to be a sustainable place where everyone aspires to reach their full potential. We want to be recognised locally, regionally and nationally as a great area to live, learn, work, play and visit.", by engaging with residents about:

   - Their quality of life and how it can be improved
   - What they can contribute to the improvement by being better informed and through our consultation opportunities

- How they can become involved locally, participate in decision making and become empowered as a decision maker

3. The Framework will enable us to work with our partners and the community, in line with national developments and decisions, to continue to effectively respond to the COVID19 pandemic and enable the transition to recovery via delivery of our Plan for Recovery. In particular it will help us to engage residents in managing and isolating local changes and avoiding local lockdowns.

4. It includes a series of commitments based on experience and opportunities across service areas and with partners. The commitments are intended to be inclusive, innovative and exploitive of digital technology.

5. The draft Framework promotes the aims of:

- Providing more efficient and effective services which meet the need of the communities where we work and offer higher levels of satisfaction and value for money
- Enabling our communities to have a voice by increasing the opportunity for engagement and awareness of those opportunities
- Increasing involvement in the democratic process and in decision making specifically
- Supporting the communities described below to problem solve their issues and identify their needs
- Building on our experience from Bradley Big Local by enabling communities to take their own action and drive what we and our partners can do to support them develop their own and shared solutions
- Developing ways of sharing what communities and we do around engagement; measuring its success and understanding where improvement is needed
- Working with partners to use the outcome of community engagement they have done already; collaborate on community engagement they are undertaking and work with them on community engagement we have planned

6. It supports work with and provides examples of:

- Communities of place which have a common interest around location
- Communities of interest which share a common subject interest or experience
- Communities of identity which share something in common about who they are and their life experiences

7. The draft Framework recognises both supporting the groups in these categories and helping to achieve a common purpose through information; consultation, involvement, collaboration and empowerment. Again, examples are given of how each of these five stages are used in practice.

8. Finally, there is a series of delivery actions under the headings of communicating our purpose, effective communication and ways of working.

IMPLICATIONS

Policy: The Framework will help to encourage resident awareness of and involvement in the development and implementation of policy.

Financial: There will be financial implications in communication with and involving residents. The increasing use of digital methods will have some cost however there are also potential savings. Net costs will be met from existing budgets or funded projects.

Legal: There are issues around the collection and retention of personal information.

Risk Management: None

Health and Safety: There are issues around lone working some of which will be mitigated through the use of digital technology

Sustainability: The Framework supports the implementation of the Strategic Plan

Community Safety: The Framework supports the implementation of the Community Safety Partnership's Partnership Plan

Equality and Diversity: The Framework has not had an Equality Impact Assessment

Appendix 1

The Community Engagement Framework