



WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE JOINT COMMITTEE

3 February 2020

Report Title	Internal and external engagement strategies for Future Northants programme
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AGENDA STATUS: PUBLIC

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present the internal and external engagement strategies for the Future Northants programme

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that the WNJC:

- note the internal engagement strategy and external engagement strategy for the Future Northants programme.

3. Issues and Choices

3.1 Report Background

- 3.1.1 These strategies are based on the design principles set out in the Prospectus for Change:

- “We will engage with communities and co-produce future designs” (West)
- “We will work with our partners to secure the best outcomes for our communities” (West)

- 3.1.2 A workshop was held in 2019 with leaders of the eight existing authorities to develop these principles and set programme engagement objectives which include ensuring that stakeholders are fully engaged with throughout the entirety of the programme.

- 3.1.3 While it is acknowledged that the programme will result in two unitary authorities with their own identities and priorities, these strategies represent a shared

desire to engage with stakeholders throughout the design, creation and stabilisation of the two new authorities.

3.2 Issues and Choices

3.2.1 This report and the strategies are for noting.

4. Implications (including financial implications)

4.1 Policy

4.1.1 These are high level strategies as each of the 13 portfolios, and the projects within those portfolios, will have their own detailed engagement strategies and plans which will identify all engagement opportunities and a suitable approach based on subject matter, defined stakeholders and appropriate methods. A toolkit is being developed to support Senior Responsible Officers and their portfolio teams in identifying these opportunities and defining the best engagement method for stakeholders to take part.

4.2 Resources and Risk

4.2.1 The strategies set out the existing engagement tools available to use and which will incur minimal costs. For example, for external engagement we will maximise use of existing community and partner forums and for internal engagement, we will use staff intranets and meetings, the trade union forum and councillor briefings and meetings.

4.2.2 NCC has an online consultation hub which offers the option to purchase a second site on behalf of the programme at a reduced cost of approximately £8,000. This site would be fully branded as Future Northants and would be heavily promoted through our suite of communications channels.

4.3 Legal

4.3.1 Where statutory consultation is required, the NCC consultation team will provide support to ensure all obligations are met.

4.4 Equality and Health

4.4.1 There are no equality or health implications in this report.

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