

REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

31st October 2017

COMMUNITY PANEL SURVEY 2017

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor J Fisher
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Head of Service	Deb Poole, Head of Business Transformation & Organisational Development
Ward(s) Affected	All
Key Decision	No

1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

- 1.1 To endorse the new Community Panel for delivery in November 2017.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

Executive Committee is requested to resolve that

- 2.1 that the proposal to have a Community Panel be noted and endorsed.**

3. KEY ISSUES

- 3.1 Historically, Redditch Borough Council was part of the Worcestershire Viewpoint project, which consulted a Worcestershire-wide panel on issues relating to a wide range of public sector services and concerns. Until the May 2015 survey, this had received external funding.
- 3.2 On the cessation of the funding, Worcestershire County Council, as the coordinator of the survey, proposed that future arrangements would cost between £2300 and £3500 per year from each partner. This would include only limited set questions for the District Councils, which had to be the same across the County.
- 3.3 It was felt by the Policy Manager and the Head of Business Transformation that the proposed arrangement would not meet the needs of RBC and that pursuing our own corporate consultation would provide greater flexibility and reduced costs..
- 3.4 As the membership list for the Worcestershire Viewpoint belonged equally to RBC, this has been shared, following a consultation exercise with panel members to inform them of changes and ensure they were happy to be part of two panels. This membership has been supplemented by additional recruitment during 2017; the current membership stands at 579 individuals (442 online and 137 postal).
- 3.5 The first survey of the new Redditch Community Panel is proposed for November 2017; the Worcestershire Viewpoint Survey is active during May each year so another survey had to avoid this period to prevent consultation fatigue.
- 3.6 The draft survey (Appendix 1) has been designed to cover key issues and reflect the Council's strategic purposes and the content of the Council Plan. Managers have had an opportunity to suggest service related questions. It does not, however, cover every function of the Council.

Financial Implications

- 3.7 There are limited financial implications arising directly from this report; the survey will be engaged with predominantly online, however, to ensure equality of access, some surveys will be sent through the post, which will incur printing and postage costs. The costs for printing and postage (and any potential return postage) of the paper surveys is approximately £600 (this may vary slightly subject to further potential increases in membership). Development, implementation and analysis of survey results would be covered by existing capacity within the Policy Team; this will all be covered by existing budgets.

Legal Implications

- 3.8 Certain functions of the Council, such as Community Safety have a statutory requirement to consult, which can be in part delivered through the Community Panel Survey.

Service / Operational Implications

- 3.9 The results from the survey will help all parts of the Council, staff and Elected Members, in ensuring that we design and deliver appropriate services which meet the needs of our communities.

Customer / Equalities and Diversity Implications

- 3.10 The Community Panel Survey will enable interested residents to be involved, share their opinions and influence decision making. By listening to residents and recognising different needs, the Council will be better placed to design and deliver appropriate, coordinated and relevant services to the communities it serves. It will form part of a wider community engagement programme to be developed over the next few years, in line with the Redditch Community Engagement Strategy 2017-2020.
- 3.11 The survey aligns with the Council's approach to equality and diversity and will help the Council to understand the different opinions within the community.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 4.1 There are no risk management implications arising directly from this report.

5. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 - Draft Community Panel Survey questions

AUTHOR OF REPORT

Name: Rebecca Dunne, Policy Manager
email: r.dunne@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk
Tel.: 01527 881616