

Meeting: Cabinet

Date: 26 November 2019

Wards Affected: All

Report Title: Community Conference 2019 – Next Steps

Is the decision a key decision? No

When does the decision need to be implemented? Immediately

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1. Proposal and Introduction

- 1.1 The Council's first Community Conference was held on 11 September 2019. The aim of the Conference was to help develop a new and more engaged relationship between the Council and individuals and communities from across Torbay.
- 1.2 The report from the Community Conference has now been published. This report sets out the next steps which the Council is proposing to take to ensure that the commitment and determination to engage more effectively is put into place.

2. Reason for Proposal and associated financial commitments

- 2.1 It is a priority of the Cabinet and the wider Partnership that the Council better engages with our communities, enabling them to be involved in both the decisions which affect them and in the delivery of services which matter to them.
 - 2.2 The proposals contained in this report will commit the Council financially in respect of:
 - A potential Community Enablement Fund which will be subject to consultation as part of the budget setting process
 - A refocusing of work towards engaging with and enabling the community
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3. Recommendation(s) / Proposed Decision

- (i) That the Cabinet makes the following commitments to the community of Torbay:
- We will embrace a spirit of cooperation and partnership.
 - We will be open with our communities about the challenges that the Council faces.
 - We will work to empower and enable our communities.
 - We will operate with openness and transparency.
- (ii) That the Cabinet seek the views of the community of how they would like to see these commitments put into practice.
- (iii) That the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive identify Ward Ambassadors from within the Partnership and the Senior Leadership Team and other senior managers to act together as a point of contact for activity within each ward.
- (iv) That the possibility of establishing a Community Enablement Fund be considered in making proposals for the 2020/2021 Revenue Budget.
- (v) That the action plan set out in Appendix 1 be approved and, in the main, be implemented through the Whole Council Redesign Programme which is currently underway as part of the wider Transformation Portfolio.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Community Conference Report

Appendix 2: Post Community Conference Action Plan

Background Documents

None

Section 1: Background Information

1.

What is the proposal / issue?

The Council's first Community Conference was held on 11 September 2019. The aim of the Conference was to help in developing a new and more engaged relationship between the Council and individuals and communities from across Torbay.

This report sets out the Cabinet's commitments to better engaging with the community in order to enable and empower them. The aim is to do things differently, working with individuals, communities and partners to create One Torbay: Working for all Torbay.

Taking account of the messages which were heard at the Community Conference, the Cabinet makes the following commitments to the community of Torbay:

- We will embrace a spirit of cooperation and partnership
- We will be open with our communities about the challenges that the Council faces
- We will work to empower and enable our communities
- We will operate with openness and transparency

The Conference report has now been published, together with video of the event. As part of this publication, the Cabinet wants to hear from the community how they would like to see these commitments put into practice.

In addition an Action Plan has been prepared which takes account of the seven key elements identified by Clarity (the independent facilitators of the event) and the areas for potential action (both strategic and cultural changes and quick wins).

The majority of these actions will be included with the Community Engagement and Empowerment Workstream of the Whole Council Redesign Programme. This Programme (which forms part of the Transformation Portfolio) aims to ensure that the Council has a sustainable operating model for the future. We will be looking to improve access to services for our community, work better with our residents and communities and make the most of the digital opportunities which are available to us.

As part of this work, the Leader and the Chief Executive will identify Ward Ambassadors from with the Partnership and Senior Leadership Team and other senior managers to act together as a single point of contact for activity within each ward. The detail of how this will work in practice will be developed in the coming weeks but they will help to ensure that ideas from the community are considered appropriately and blockages to undertaking that activity are dealt with quickly and efficiently. They will also play a lead role in changing the culture of Torbay Council towards a more positive "can

	<p>do” approach, and will hopefully encourage the community to work more collaboratively also.</p> <p>It is also felt that an element of seed funding is required in order to enable and empower communities. The possibility of establishing a Community Enablement Fund will be considered as the Cabinet develop their proposals for the 2020/2021 Revenue Budget.</p>
<p>2.</p>	<p>What is the current situation?</p> <p>The Torbay Community Conference was designed as the first stage in helping Torbay Council develop a new and more engaged relationship with individuals and communities across the Bay. This desire for more effective and sustained engagement with communities represents a key element in the Council’s broader ambitions for fundamentally re-designing how the Council operates.</p> <p>The purpose of the Conference was:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Torbay Council needs people and communities to be more involved. We want to have better on-going conversations with individuals and communities, and we want ideas on how individuals, organisations and communities can help us make Torbay thrive. This conference is an opportunity for you to share these ideas, tells us what can be done differently and highlight great examples of community action from which we can all learn.</p> <p>Four overarching (and related) messages emerged from the Conference discussions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There needs to be a change of culture in the Council and also in communities. • Trusted relationships with communities need to be built. • Communication with communities and individuals needs to improve. • Celebration of the Bay’s assets and civic pride need to be encouraged.
<p>3.</p>	<p>What options have been considered?</p> <p>The specific detail about how to address a number of suggestions from the Community Conference still needs to be developed.</p> <p>However there is a commitment to do things differently in relation to community engagement and empowerment. Developing the Council’s approach to this issue through the Whole Council Redesign Programme will ensure that changes are made with the customer and community in mind.</p>

4.	<p>What is the relationship with the priorities within the Partnership Memorandum and the Council's Principles?</p> <p>This proposal is in line with the Partnership's commitment to develop a new and more engaged relationship with individuals and communities across the Bay.</p>
5.	<p>How does this proposal/issue contribute towards the Council's responsibilities as corporate parents?</p> <p>As part of the Council's new approach to community engagement and empowerment, our Children Looked After are a critical group. There is a need to ensure that their views are heard on a range of subjects which matter to them.</p>
6.	<p>How does this proposal/issue tackle poverty, deprivation and vulnerability?</p> <p>The Cabinet is seeking to ensure that community enablement and empowerment reaches all aspects of the Council's work including supporting vulnerable people across Torbay and those who face poverty and deprivation. Ultimately, the Cabinet is looking for the community (including the Council and partners) to come together to turn the tide on poverty, creating One Torbay: Working for all Torbay.</p>
7.	<p>How does the proposal/issue impact on people with learning disabilities?</p> <p>As part of the Council's new approach to community engagement and empowerment, people with learning difficulties are another critical group. There is a need to ensure that their views are heard on a range of subjects which matter to them.</p>
8.	<p>Who will be affected by this proposal and who do you need to consult with? How will the Council engage with the community? How can the Council empower the community?</p> <p>In the first instance the report from the Community Conference will be shared online, with the Community Partnerships and with partner organisations. Views will be sought on how our commitments to community engagement and empowerment will work in practice.</p> <p>As the work develops on embedding community engagement and empowerment, the community will be engaged in a number of ways. Councillors as community leaders will have a vital role to play in this.</p> <p>The potential to establish a Community Enablement Fund will be subject to the consultation as part of the Proposed Revenue Budget for 2020/2021.</p>

Section 2: Implications and Impact Assessment

9.	<p>What are the financial and legal implications?</p> <p>The financial and legal implications of the activity within the Action Plan will be considered as each action is implemented.</p>
10.	<p>What are the risks?</p> <p>The risks the activity within the Action Plan will be considered as each action is implemented. However, the Council will need to consider its position in relation to risk and potentially move towards being a less risk adverse organisation in relation to communities helping to deliver services.</p>
11.	<p>Public Services Value (Social Value) Act 2012</p> <p>As the Council develops its approach to community engagement and empowerment, there will be an opportunity through the Public Services Value (Social Value) Act 2012 to maximise the benefits to our communities through the contracts that the Council has.</p>
12.	<p>What evidence / data / research have you gathered in relation to this proposal?</p> <p>The purpose of the Community Conference was to gather feedback from the community about how they currently work, the barriers and constraints to greater community engagement and the action needed to facilitate and support this.</p> <p>This information is contained within the report of the Community Conference.</p>
13.	<p>What are key findings from the consultation you have carried out?</p> <p>The four overarching messages from the Community Conference were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• There needs to be a change of culture in the Council and also in communities.• Trusted relationships with communities need to be built.• Communication with communities and individuals needs to improve.• Celebration of the Bay's assets and civic pride need to be encouraged.
14.	<p>Amendments to Proposal / Mitigating Actions</p> <p>Not applicable</p>

Equality Impacts

15.	Identify the potential positive and negative impacts on specific groups			
	Positive Impact	Negative Impact & Mitigating Actions	Neutral Impact	
Older or younger people	The aim is to have a positive impact on all groups through having better community engagement and empowerment.			
People with caring Responsibilities	The aim is to have a positive impact on all groups through having better community engagement and empowerment.			
People with a disability	The aim is to have a positive impact on all groups through having better community engagement and empowerment.			
Women or men	The aim is to have a positive impact on all groups through having better community engagement and empowerment.			
People who are black or from a minority ethnic background (BME) <i>(Please note Gypsies / Roma are within this community)</i>	The aim is to have a positive impact on all groups through having better community engagement and empowerment.			
Religion or belief (including lack of belief)	The aim is to have a positive impact on all groups through having better community engagement and empowerment.			
People who are lesbian, gay or bisexual	The aim is to have a positive impact on all groups through having better community engagement and empowerment.			

	People who are transgendered	The aim is to have a positive impact on all groups through having better community engagement and empowerment.		
	People who are in a marriage or civil partnership	The aim is to have a positive impact on all groups through having better community engagement and empowerment.		
	Women who are pregnant / on maternity leave	The aim is to have a positive impact on all groups through having better community engagement and empowerment.		
	Socio-economic impacts (Including impact on child poverty issues and deprivation)	The aim is to have a positive impact on all groups through having better community engagement and empowerment.		
	Public Health impacts (How will your proposal impact on the general health of the population of Torbay)	The aim is to have a positive impact on all groups through having better community engagement and empowerment.		
16.	Cumulative Impacts – Council wide (proposed changes elsewhere which might worsen the impacts identified above)	Not applicable		
17.	Cumulative Impacts – Other public services (proposed changes elsewhere which might worsen the impacts identified above)	No Applicable		