

POLICY, GOVERNANCE & FINANCE COMMITTEE

Date: Monday, 24 July 2023
Title: Inclusivity & Diversity Panel
Contact Officer: Deputy Town Clerk

Background

At the meeting of the Stronger Communities Committee meeting held on 12 June, it was agreed consideration should be given to support inclusivity, diversity and wellbeing by reintroducing a consultancy Committee which continually feeds into all Town Council work.

Current Situation

A suggestion has been made on how this work as follows:

Purpose: The purpose of the Committee/Panel is to raise issues people are experiencing.
The Town Council can look at forthcoming agendas for potential issues and ask about recent things it has done – how are they going for people?

Platform: Virtual Meeting

Frequency: Each Committee cycle, either ahead of Stronger Communities or Full Council

Membership: Representatives of local advocacy groups for - disability, LGBTQ, ethnicities, learning difficulties, older people, other under-represented groups and who those who may experience life in Witney differently.
Groups could be invited to nominate a representative by the town council or offer an expression of interest on being involved.

Environmental impact

Having declared a Climate Change Emergency at its Council meeting on 26 June 2019 Councillors should have due regard to the environmental impact of any decisions they make with regard to its facilities and services it operates.

Risk

In decision making Councillors should give consideration to any risks to the Council and any action it can take to limit or negate its liability.

The Council must act proactively to ensure all voices in the community are acknowledged and listened to.

Financial implications

Described here or as stated in the report above.

- There is no known cost implication to this project. The meeting will not form part of the Council's Committee structure and will not incur staff administration costs.

Recommendations

Members are invited to note the report and consider the following:

1. Whether to agree the structure of the above consultancy committee as presented.