

Community and Leisure Committee Meeting	
Meeting Date	4 September 2024
Report Title	Empowering You in Swale
EMT Lead	Emma Wiggins, Director of Regeneration & Neighbourhoods
Head of Service	Charlotte Hudson, Head of Housing & Community Services
Lead Officer	Sarah-Jane Radley, Community & Partnerships Manager
Classification	Open
Recommendations	1. The committee is asked to recommend the approval of the Empowering You in Swale overview document for an 8 week public consultation.

1 Purpose of Report and Executive Summary

- 1.1 The Empowering You in Swale strategy document is being developed to provide Swale with a Community Development Strategy to outline how the council intends to support the community over the next 3 years in line with the Corporate Plan. We ask the committee to recommend the approval of the overview document for a public 8 week consultation to capture feedback and comments that will help shape the final strategy.

2 Background

- 2.1 In March 2024 the Health & Housing Committee agreed to the closedown of the Health & Wellbeing Strategy due to the restructure of the community team and the deletion of the Health & Wellbeing post. The committee proposal included the development of a new strategy that encompasses key delivery for community services in line with the existing Corporate Plan and Service Plan.

A cross party member working group took place to discuss ideas and suggestions for the key priorities of the strategy and how members would like the strategy to be set out. The name Empowering You in Swale was agreed as the title for the document and an outline of items that should be included.

In addition to the members working group, the Cost of Living Partnership Group were engaged in a workshop to discuss the key themes and priorities within the strategy and valuable input from our statutory and VCS partners has helped to start to shape the document.

3 Proposals

- 3.1 We propose to carry out a consultation for Empowering You in Swale Overview document for a period of 8 weeks.

Consultees

3.2 Below is a list of some of the individuals and groups who we hope to consult with:

- Residents:
 - Area Committees
 - Website
 - Social media
- Town and Parish Councils
- NHS partners (Health & Care Partnerships)
- DWP
- Swale Voluntary Alliance
- Voluntary and Community Sector
- Schools and education partners
- Community Safety Partnership

4 Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

4.1 The alternative option of continuing to deliver the Health & Wellbeing Plan was dismissed by the Health & Housing Committee due to a lack of resources. The work of the Community & Partnerships Team has evolved since the development of the Health & Wellbeing Strategy to encompass a wider area of delivery and so this is reflected within the new strategy.

We do not feel that the option to ‘do nothing’ is the best option as although we have a commitment to community within the Corporate Plan, this strategy enables us to provide a level of detail for how we intend to improve the lives of Swale residents through community development.

5 Consultation Undertaken or Proposed

5.1 For full details of the external consultation, see point 3 Proposals.

We have conducted a member workshop and a workshop within the Cost of Living Partnership Group and we will share the consultation with the appropriate internal teams for feedback and comments.

6 Implications

Issue	Implications
Corporate Plan	Empowering You in Swale links to the four key objectives of the Corporate Plan through the delivery activities being proposed within the strategy.

Financial, Resource and Property	<p>Development of the strategy is through a commitment of officer time and internal resources to deliver the consultation this means that there are little to no financial implications.</p> <p>Delivery of the work associated to the Empowering You in Swale Strategy will be committed to from the existing delivery resources of the Community & Partnerships Team and wider team input where there is a cross over of service delivery, no additional funding for projects outside of this area of work has been agreed.</p>
Legal, Statutory and Procurement	None identified at this stage
Crime and Disorder	The Empowering You in Swale Strategy outlines collaborative projects that aim to improve the lives of communities and links to the delivery plan for the Community Safety Executive.
Environment and Climate/Ecological Emergency	The Empowering You in Swale Strategy outlines collaborative projects that aim to improve the lives of communities through community development, and this includes tackling fuel and water poverty in the borough.
Health and Wellbeing	The Empowering You in Swale Strategy outlines collaborative projects that aim to improve the lives of communities through community development, and this includes tackling health inequalities in the borough.
Safeguarding of Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults	The Empowering You in Swale Strategy outlines collaborative projects that aim to improve the lives of communities through community development, and we ensure that all partners we work with comply with safeguarding policies and we are delivering according to our own policies.
Risk Management and Health and Safety	None identified at this stage
Equality and Diversity	The external consultation will inform the detail of the EQIA
Privacy and Data Protection	None identified at this stage

7 Appendices

7.1 The following documents are to be published with this report and form part of the report:

- Appendix I: Empowering You in Swale DRAFT doc

8 Background Papers

Health & Housing Committee paper – agreement to close Health & Wellbeing Strategy.