

25 September 2019

Report of	Assistant Director Policy and Corporate	Author	Owen Howell ☎ 282518
Title	Public Engagement – Survey Results and Contributions at the meeting		
Wards affected	Not applicable		

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report provides the Committee with a summary of the responses received from the Policy and Public Initiatives Panel survey, which was created to give members of the public the opportunity to make suggestions about what the Panel could review as part of its future work programme. The report also provides a summary of the methods used to publicise the survey.
- 1.2 At the time of publishing the report 25 different responses had been received on a variety of different issues, with two responses not containing any substantive content or suggestions for the Panel.

2. Action Required

- 2.1 To assess the responses received to the survey to date, and to invite members of the public at the meeting to inform the Panel of their ideas.
- 2.2 To establish any issues or suggestions relating to existing work programme items, and which the Panel wants to include in the scope of their review of those items.
- 2.3 To identify suggestions of new public initiatives or policy areas which the Panel wish to add to the work programme and to make a recommendation to Cabinet for their inclusion.

3. Reason for Review

- 3.1 A fundamental element of the Policy Review and Public Initiatives Panel is to listen to suggestions from members of the public about what ideas the Panel could review as part of its work programme.
- 3.2 This report follows agreement by the Panel to hold a public engagement session at this meeting, following a similar format to the public engagement session held in September 2018. The public engagement is built around an online survey and the opportunity for members of the public to attend this meeting to have their say regarding ideas for the Panel to consider.
- 3.3 Following on from the suggestions received, the Panel will need to consider what ideas and suggestions could be included within the scope for existing items on the work programme, and those ideas which could be added to the work programme following a request to Cabinet for approval.

4. Background Information

- 4.1 At the Policy and Public Initiatives Panel meeting on 19 June 2019, it was agreed that the agenda for the meeting in September should be focused on collecting public ideas and initiatives. This would be done using an online survey as well as an opportunity for members of the public to submit ideas at the meeting.
- 4.2 In advance of the meeting, the survey was published and circulated through a number of different outlets. This included social media, e-newsletters and press release to media outlets, advertising the survey hosted on the Council's website. Provisions within recent data protection legislation (General Data Protection Regulation 2016 and Data Protection Act 2018) meant that it was not possible to advertise this survey through use of the Granicus/govdelivery mailing list of people who have requested to receive notifications relating to the Policy and Public Initiatives Panel and this is thought to have reduced the number of responses received. For future consultations, work will be carried out to enable greater participation of elected members in publicising the survey/consultation.
- 4.3 The survey asked members of the public to submit their ideas related to the Strategic Plan 2018-21, those items that are already scheduled on the Policy and Public Initiatives Panel Work Programme, and on new initiatives which they might wish the Panel to consider.

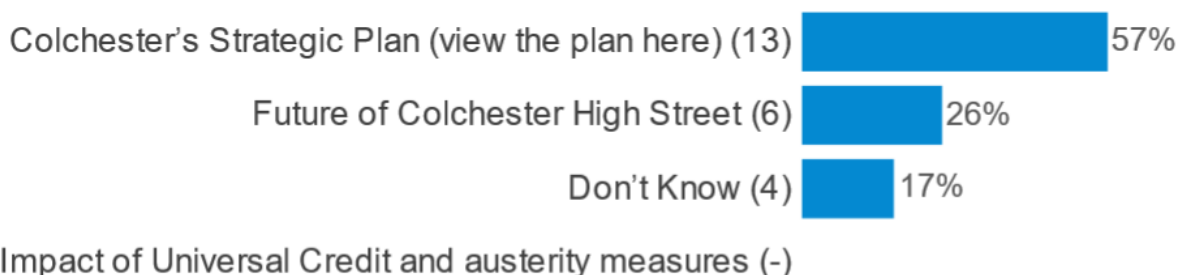
5. Process at the meeting

- 5.1 As part of the process at the meeting members of the public will be able to propose their idea or initiative to the Panel as part of this item using the same rules as Have Your Say!
- 5.2 In addition, members of the public will be able to write ideas on flip charts provided at the meeting. The Panel may wish to adjourn the meeting to decide which should be discussed and considered to take forward as recommendations to Cabinet for inclusion on the Panel's Work Programme.

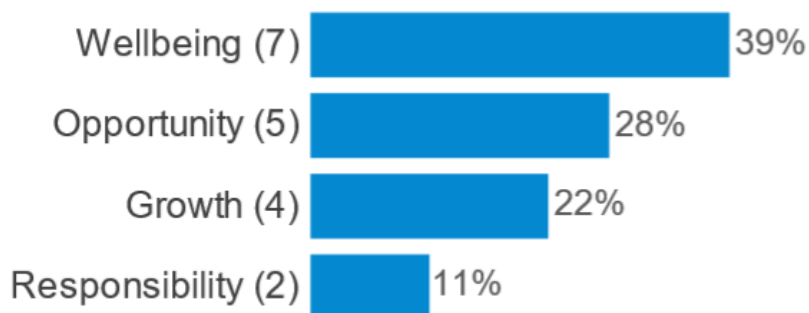
6. Responses

- 6.1 The survey ran until 7 September on the Council's website. A full list of the responses received to date are included in **Appendix A**. Responses are categorised by theme, e.g. those relating to the Town Centre/High Street are grouped together.
- 6.2 A total of 25 responses were received, however one of these was a duplicate and has therefore been removed from the submissions in the appendix. Two responses contained no submission of ideas and have likewise been removed.
- 6.3 Shown overleaf are graphics illustrating the spread of topics covered by suggestions received in the online survey. A heatmap illustrating the location/ Borough Council wards from where submissions were received is included in **Appendix B**.

To what does your idea relate?



If your idea relates to the Strategic Plan, to which of its priorities does your idea mainly relate?



7. Strategic Plan References

7.1 Consideration of the initiatives brought forward under this item will involve an assessment as to how they address the themes and priorities within the Strategic Plan 2018-21. The Strategic Plan can be found on the Colchester Borough Council website and by using the link provided here:

[Strategic Plan 2018-21](#)

7.2 This consultation itself acts to promote the following Strategic Plan priorities:

Responsibility

- Promote responsible citizenship by encouraging residents to get involved in their communities and to identify solutions to local issues.

Opportunity

- Promote initiatives to help residents live healthier lives.

Wellbeing

- Encourage belonging, involvement and responsibility in all the Borough's communities.

8. Consultation and Publicity Considerations

8.1 Consultation and publicity considerations have been addressed within the above report.

9. Standard References

9.1 There are no particular references to financial, community safety, health and safety or risk management implications.

Appendices

Appendix A – Summary of Responses

Appendix B – Location Heatmap of responses