

REPORT TO: Employment, Learning, Skills & Community
Policy & Performance Board

DATE: June 19th 2023

REPORTING OFFICER: Corporate Director, Chief Executives Delivery
Unit

PORTFOLIO: Leader

SUBJECT: The Big Conversation Update

WARD(S) Borough wide

1.0 **PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 To share with the Employment, Learning, Skills & Community Policy & Performance Board the approach to 'The Big Conversation', which is integral to formulating a new Council Corporate Plan, to take effect from April 2024.

2.0 **RECOMMENDED: That**

- 1) **the report be noted; and**
- 2) **that the Employment, Learning, Skills & Community Policy and Performance Board endorses the approach to facilitate 'The Big Conversation'.**

3.1 **Background**

It was agreed at Management Team on February 21st 2023 and at Executive Board on March 16th 2023 that we would provide adequate opportunity for meaningful consultation and ultimately produce a Corporate Plan which is totally unique and meaningful to the people of Halton.

3.2 This would take the form of 'The Big Conversation' and would incorporate the opportunity for all to feedback via hard copy form, electronically or face to face, between now and the end of the year.

3.3 **The Big Conversation: Reimagine Halton - we don't have all the answers!**

'The Big Conversation' is all about engaging with the public so that they understand the challenges that the Council is facing.

It is an approach between the Council and everyone who lives or works in Halton to work together in order to create an improved borough in all aspects of everyday life.

3.4 **Corporate Plan Survey Themes:**

- Effective support for all those in need
- A strong and vibrant economy bringing prosperity to all
- Strong, safe and happy communities that can shape their future
- A Cleaner and greener environment
- Active, healthy and longer lives for all

3.5 **Survey Questions:**

- What do you think of the 5 themes?
- What can you do to help us to achieve these?
- What can the Council do to achieve these?
- Are there any other themes that you think are missing?
- Ideally, how do you want to access Council services?
- Any other comments?

Targeted engagement of different audiences, for example, Children and Young People: What would make Halton a better place for you to play, live and grow up?

3.6 **Data Analysis**

All feedback and responses will be scrutinised and evaluated. The 2 facilitators from North West Employers (used in December 2022) will then be invited back to meet with members from both Management Team and Executive Board in order to work through this, summarise accordingly and establish a number of key objectives, which in turn will form the organisation`s new Corporate Plan.

3.7 **Revised Timescales:**

- January – March 2023: Update Management Team/Executive Board and also communicate with the wider audience, namely Divisional Manager`s and all elected members
- May – December 2023: The Big Conversation takes place
- May – June 2023: consult HBC Workforce
- December 2023 – January 2024: analyse data and identify the key learning points/issues
- January – March 2024: compose the Corporate Plan and seek approval
- April 2024: the New Corporate Plan is launched

4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 There are no specific policy implications at this stage; however ultimately there will be a new contemporary and relevant Halton Borough Council

Corporate Plan.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There is a potential financial implication around the resources required for the delivery of 'The Big Conversation' and the evaluation of the data and qualitative content that it results in.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

- 6.1 The Corporate Plan is Halton Borough Council's key strategic document. This plan sets out the main vision, themes and values of the Council.

'The Big Conversation' will help to determine the Council's new set of priorities, which will be translated into the plan.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

- 7.1 The major risk is that we do nothing and roll out the same priorities as we have done in previous years. To this end the current Corporate Plan is a losing relevance and doesn't fully engage with either the workforce or the people of Halton in the contemporary environment.

- 7.2 The Council is serious about 'Reimagining Halton' aligned with that commitment, this is a perfect opportunity to undertake a meaningful piece of work which will engage the people of Halton and together with our workforce determine a set of new priorities, which will make a difference and take Halton forward over the next 3 – 5 years.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

- 8.1 Equality and Diversity may well be a specific Corporate Plan priority, but if not then it will certainly underpin the Plan. An Equality Impact Assessment will be undertaken as part of the policy development process.

9.0 CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 At this stage there is nothing specific to highlight within the context of this report; however there is a distinct possibility that as a result of 'The Big Conversation' climate implications will form one, or a key part of one, of the Council's key priorities.

10.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

None under the meaning of the Act.

Appendix A: The Big Conversation PowerPoint Presentation