

NORTHERN MIDLANDS COUNCIL

COUNCIL POLICIES



C+D 2

Policy Name: Community Consultation and Engagement Policy

Originated Date: 16 April 2018

Amended Date/s:

Applicable Legislation:

Dataworks Reference: 44/001/001

Objective: To provide effective communication and promote positive relationships between Council and the community.

1. INTRODUCTION

This document sets out the policy of the Northern Midlands Council ("Council") for Community Public Consultation and Engagement.

2. SCOPE

This policy applies to Elected Members, employees, and others acting on behalf of Council.

3. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to underpin Council's commitment to the highest level of community engagement.

4. POLICY OBJECTIVES

- 4.1 To promote positive relationships between Council and the community.
- 4.2 To provide the framework for appropriately structured, targeted and delivered community engagement as part of Council's decision making.
- 4.3 To provide effective communication and engagement between Council and the community.
- 4.4 To encourage, enhance and provide the opportunity for community participation in the decision making processes of Council.
- 4.5 To achieve a greater level of community input, understanding and ownership of decisions made by Council.
- 4.6 To support Council decision making that is open, transparent, responsive, inclusive and accountable to the community.

5. COMMITMENT

The Northern Midlands Council is committed to effective, ongoing and timely community engagement as an integral part of local governance and key decision making.

Council will be diligent in informing and seeking the views of the community, taking into account the specific needs of different sections of the community, ensuring appropriate strategies are developed to maximise the opportunities for participation of all members of the community.

Council acknowledges that different sections of the community will have different levels of interest in individual issues and will tailor its engagement strategies accordingly.

Council will define the parameters of the community engagement process for each specific topic, using best practice principles that incorporate all legislative.

6. PRINCIPLES

This policy is underpinned by the following principles that are central to effective communication and engagement.

Community Engagement is any process that involves the community in problem solving or decision making and uses community input to make decisions. Community engagement can include communicating with the community about decisions made; consulting on specific ideas or proposals; involving the community in planning processes; and collaborating with the community to make decisions.

Community Engagement is a part of community engagement and means a planned process by which the Council formally invites its constituents and stakeholders to comment about matters upon which Elected Members are to deliberate.

7. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- 7.1** This Community Consultation and Engagement Policy will apply to Council Elected Members, Council Staff and others acting on behalf of the Council.
- 7.2** The Community Consultation and Engagement Policy is developed and reviewed by Council.
- 7.3** The responsibility of Council and Council Staff is to assess and identify issues where community engagement will assist the decision making process.
- 7.4** The General Manager is responsible for:
 - Implementing and ensuring compliance with the Community Consultation and Engagement Policy.
 - Reporting on outcomes in meeting the objectives of the Policy.
 - Reporting on the review and evaluation of the Policy.

8. REVIEW AND EVALUATION

This Policy will be reviewed every two years.