

Participation Strategy

Local Government and Elections Act (Wales) 2021



Participation Strategy



Legislation

s.39- Duty to encourage local people to participate in local government decision making to include the making of decisions in partnership or in conjunction with any other person

s.40- Prepare and Publish a Strategy on encouraging people to participate (as above) and review the strategy following every local government election

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/asc/2021/1/contents>



Participation Strategy



Key Requirements

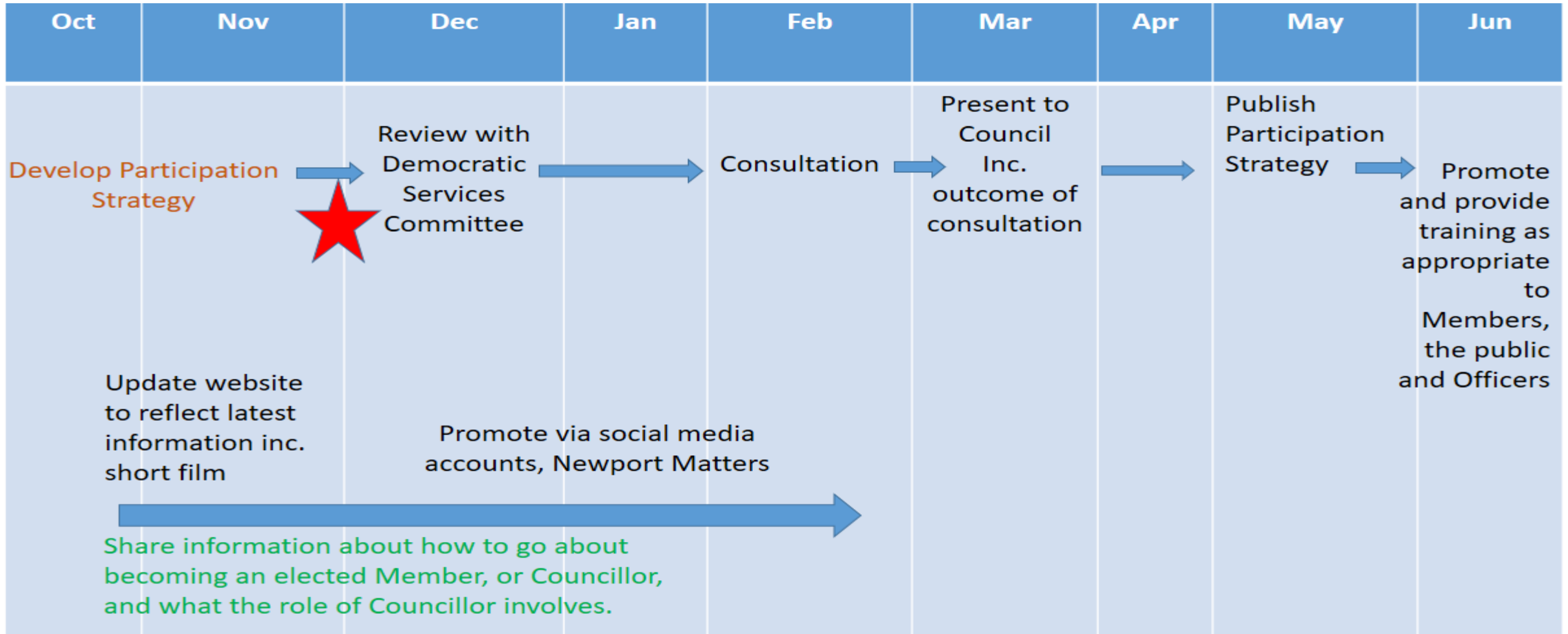
1. how the council intends to promote awareness of the council's functions to the public
2. promoting how to become a member of the council or a related authority
3. facilitating greater access to information for members of the public
4. providing ways for members of the public to make representations to principal councils
5. promote awareness of the benefits of using social media by members of the council



Participation Strategy



Timeline



Participation Strategy

1. Promote awareness of the council's functions to the public

| Legislative Duty | Aims |
|---|--|
| Promote awareness of the functions the Council carries out to local residents, businesses and visitors. | Sharing information about the Council's functions and services so that residents are informed. Sharing information about the Council's functions supports the public to digest and explore information before they may be asked to give their opinion or recommendations. |



Participation Strategy

1. Promote awareness of the council's functions to the public

| What we have to build on | Further actions |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Corporate Plan• Council website• Modern.Gov• Newport Matters• Live streaming of Council meetings Council Meetings• Cabinet Meetings• Budget Consultations• Social Media | <p>Publishing a Guide to the Democratic Process</p> <p>Improving the Council website so that it is easier to access information</p> <p>Ensuring that the council's forward plan supports public engagement by being accessible, timely and user friendly</p> |



Participation Strategy

2. Promote how to become a member of the council or a related authority

| Legislative Duty | Aims |
|---|--|
| <p>Share information about how to go about becoming a Councillor, and what the role of Councillor involves.</p> | <p>Encouraging people to become Councillors, representing the people in their own community and making decisions on their behalf.</p> <p>Councillors are representative of their communities, and different viewpoints inform decisions that benefit everyone.</p> |



Participation Strategy

2. Promote how to become a member of the council or a related authority

| What we have to build on | Further actions |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Website; Council and Democracy pages• Become a Councillor page https://www.newport.gov.uk/en/Council-Democracy/Become-a-councillor/Become-a-councillor.aspx• Full training curriculum to support Members• Regular Members Seminars• Allowances for Members posted on Council website• Strategic Equality Plan and objectives• Role Descriptions for Members as part of the Constitution | <p>Implementing hybrid meetings that allow Councillors to attend and participate in Council meetings from any location with an internet connection</p> <p>Ensuring that information for potential councillors is available and fit for purpose; e.g. promotion of the Access to Elected Office for Disabled People Fund</p> |



Participation Strategy

3. Facilitate greater access to information for members of the public

| Legislative Duty | Aims |
|---|--|
| Provide greater access to information about decisions that have been made, or that will be made by the Council. | Encouraging and enabling everyone affected to be involved in decisions, if they so choose People affected by an issue or change are included in opportunities to engage as an individual or as part of a group or community, with their views both respected and valued |



Participation Strategy

3. Facilitate greater access to information for members of the public

| What we have to build on | Further actions |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Website• Modern.Gov• Consultation and surveys – including public wi-fi• Newport Matters• One Newport partnership Bulletin• Data to inform proposals• The Council works closely with partners to share information about decisions and engage with residents• The Council works with community groups | <p>Improving the Council website so that it is easier to access information</p> <p>Ensuring that the council’s forward plan supports public engagement by being accessible, timely and user friendly</p> |



Participation Strategy

4. providing ways for members of the public to make representations to principal councils

| Legislative Duty | Aims |
|--|--|
| <p>Provide and promote opportunities for residents to provide feedback to the Council, including petitions, comments, complaints and other types of representations.</p> | <p>This objective focusses on participation , which is much more than getting people’s views on a specific issue. Participation is about encouraging people to take part in community and political activities using different approaches and methods of engagement.</p> |



Participation Strategy

4. Provide ways for members of the public to make representations to principal councils

| What we have to build on | Further actions |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Website• Digital forms• Comments, Compliments and Complaints policy• Consultation and surveys• Newport Matters• Modern.Gov• One Newport partnership facilitates feedback• The Council works with community groups• Petition Scheme (<i>to be developed</i>) | <p>Petition scheme; <i>needs to be developed</i></p> <p>Regularly reporting on comments received from residents</p> <p>Developing a better understanding of the demographics of residents who regularly provide feedback, so that any gaps in representation can be identified</p> |



Participation Strategy

5. Promote awareness of the benefits of using social media by members of the council

| Legislative Duty | Aims |
|--|--|
| <p>Promote awareness of the benefits of using social media to communicate with residents to Councillors.</p> | <p>This objective recognises that Social media has become an important public space, a place where councillors share political information and engage with other councillors, support officers and residents.</p> <p>Social media has the potential to improve democracy by facilitating bigger, freer and more open conversations and by allowing representatives to communicate directly with citizens.</p> <p>While social media can be a helpful tool for engagement, alternative methods of communication including are also valid.</p> |



Participation Strategy

5. Promote awareness of the benefits of using social media by members of the council

| What we have to build on | Further actions |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="147 482 698 525">• Social Media channels<li data-bbox="147 611 1248 782">• Welsh Local Government Association - Guidance for New Councillors - 'Improving Digital Citizenship – Research and Best Practice' | <p data-bbox="1396 496 2226 554">Member Induction and Training</p> <p data-bbox="1569 648 2053 705">Member Seminars</p> |



Participation Strategy

Next Steps

- Design and formatting
- Consultation
- Present to Council

