

COUNCIL

21 SEPTEMBER 2023

AMENDMENT TO MOTION 3

Proposer: Cllr Michael Michael
Seconder: Cllr Helen Gunter

Original Lib Dem text in yellow, with deletions struck through. Labour amendments in Red.

This council notes that:

- ~~many residents and communities within Cardiff do not currently feel the local authority consults them appropriately prior to making key decisions that impact on their lives and on services they use and depend upon.~~
- ~~council consultations are often not advertised effectively to residents who may be affected by decisions, in part due to an over-reliance on consultations predominantly being promoted on digital platforms.~~
- The reach and breadth of Cardiff Council's consultation and engagement is greater than ever before. Evidence for this includes:**
 - The 62,000 responses to consultations and surveys in 2021/22 – a 40% increase since 2019**
 - The almost 4,000 response to the 2022 Ask Cardiff Survey, and almost 6,000 responses to the 2023/24 Budget Proposals, compared with the 2012 Budget consultation consisting of a single electronic survey that garnered just 237 responses.**
 - A Citizens Panel, established to support engagement, with over 5,000 active members, reported 63% of members believing engagement to be Very Good/Good, compared with 3% reporting a poor/very poor experience.**

The Council further notes that despite the above, there is further room for improvement, given that some areas of the city, and some demographics are under-represented in responses to Consultation. The Council's new Participation Strategy seeks to improve this.

In view of this, this council believes that:

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1. ~~Consultations are not referenda, and Councillors are elected by the people to take decisions in the best interests of the whole city. On occasion, the best interest of the City may be in conflict with the wishes of special interests groups with a narrow focus.~~
2. ~~whilst consultation should not be seen simply as a veto, good and appropriate use of consultation undoubtedly leads to~~ **helps inform** ~~better decision-making.~~
3. ~~for consultation to be seen as meaningful, it should as far as possible be carried out prior to decisions being taken, including when decisions are taken in-principle.~~ **at a formative stage of proposals** ~~whilst also recognising both the legitimacy of a political mandate for the delivery of policies, and the constraints of budget.~~
4. ~~there should be an assumption that consultation will be carried out prior to all key decisions which impact on residents and communities.~~ Consultation will be carried out in line with the National Principles for Public Engagement in Wales, the Gunning Principles and the Well-being of Future Generations Act.

~~This council therefore calls on the Cabinet to put the principles outlined above firmly into practice and~~ **calls on all Councillors to encourage responses to the Participation Strategy which is currently being consulted on.**

~~to revise the council's participation strategy accordingly in order to give Cardiff's residents more confidence that their views will be taken into account when future decisions are made by the council's administration~~

The Motion as amended would read:

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1. *Consultations are not referenda, and Councillors are elected by the people to take decisions in the best interests of the whole city. On occasion, the best interest of the City may be in conflict with the wishes of special interests groups with a narrow focus.*
2. *good and appropriate use of consultation undoubtedly helps inform better decision-making.*
3. *for consultation to be seen as meaningful, it should as far as possible be carried out at a formative stage of proposals whilst also recognising both the legitimacy of a political mandate for the delivery of policies, and the constraints of budget.*
4. *consultation will be carried out in line with the National Principles for Public Engagement in Wales, the Gunning Principles and the Well-being of Future Generations Act.*

This council therefore calls on the Cabinet to put the principles outlined above firmly into practice, and calls on all Councillors to encourage responses to the Participation Strategy which is currently being consulted on.