

NOTES CASTLE POINT PLAN BOARD

4th October 2023

PRESENT:

Councillors: Gibson (Chairman), Fuller, Hart, Isaacs, Mountford, Mumford, S. Palmer and Savage.

Officers in attendance: Ian Butt (Head of Place & Policy) Amanda Parrott (Planning Policy Manager) Neil Gale (Planning Policy Officer (Engagement)), Maria Hennessy (Senior Planning Policy Officer), Matt Amner (Planning Policy Officer) Dominic Chessim (Communications).

Apologies: Angela Hutchings (Chief Executive) Councillors Blackwell and Hart

Engagement Outcomes

- In total 1,489 responses were received during the community engagement, of that 656 were male and 798 were female, the remainder did not provide a gender. The majority of respondents were over the age of 35, with a low response rate from under 25's, despite interventions to try and get a higher response rate during the consultation.
- Tags were used to highlight what issues had been raised and they were put under headings such as environment and transport. Some tags that were used were similar such as road safety and road traffic, these all fall under the transport heading for example.
- The engagement sought to identify what the main issues in the borough were within the different areas in the borough.
- The environment was classified as the most important category for the whole borough and transport was considered the biggest issue for the borough.
- It was discussed that within the draft report there could be a section which details the main issues under each heading, which would make it clearer what the key topics mentioned were within each category.
- A key positive from the consultation was the population heading where people valued the sense of community in which they live.
- In terms of organisations and stakeholders, they were asked how the plan can help them, have they got any ideas to help us and have they got any data. This was found to be successful with organisations responding such as hospitals which have not responded in the past.
- Responses and input from the stakeholders that engaged through the consultation may help resolve some of the issues raised through the community.
- Officers are working on commissioning engagement through art which is envisioned to help get responses from younger people and others who may not normally respond such as those with disabilities. This would be in a more

creative, visual output rather than a survey response. This could be in the form of 2D paintings, spoken words and videography, and could potentially be used to illustrate the plan as well as inform it. Members suggested that rap could also be used as a tool to convey feelings and thoughts of the local area.

- It was highlighted that engagement with younger people in colleges may include other young people from outside the borough as a lot of students commute to Castle Point. This will be addressed through the approach taken.
- The engagement did not elicit a significant response from businesses. However, now that the Economic Development team is resourced there is capacity to undertake more engagement with businesses including on a 1:1 basis.

Communications arising from meeting

- It was suggested that no communications are sent directly as a result of this meeting and further thought should be given about how to present the outcomes of the engagement to the public as part of this first phase of plan making alongside the results of the housing work.

Any other business

DLUHC

- Since the previous workshop and the agreement to update the Local Development Scheme (LDS) to align with submission of a local plan post June 2025, which would mean it would be examined under the proposed new planning system Officers have met with DLUHC who were keen to impress on the Council the need to get a plan in place as soon as possible, and that transition to the new system may not be swift. Officers will be meeting with the planning advisory service before a new LDS is presented to Cabinet for advice on this issue.