COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

STATEMENT OF INTENT

INTRODUCTION

To achieve its ambitions, Great Coates Village Council wants to work closely with the public – residents, communities, businesses and voluntary organisations. Its aim is to engage with its residents and encourage their participation in decision making, securing better services, being engaged with the local democratic process and creating a more active and informed community.

AIMS

The Council strives to undertake the following:

To enable an involved, empowered and active citizenship through:

(i) Engage with all members of the community
(ii) Reach out to the elderly and vulnerable members
(iii) Seeking the views of young people

To communicate information to its community clearly, factually and appropriately through:

(i) Its website detailing all council services and activities
(ii) The preparation of its quarterly magazine and bi-monthly newsletters (where necessary) sent out to every household
(iii) The use of plain English and no local government jargon
(iv) The adherence to a corporate design/logo

To improve its communication with its partners and stakeholders and co-ordinate its community engagement efforts through:

(i) Supporting the role and functioning of the local Unitary Authority;
(ii) Actively being involved in various local organisations such as the Humber Chemical Focus Group
(iii) To have a member as a Governor at the Local Nursery School

To raise the image and reputation of the Council through:

(i) Inviting residents to be actively involved in our meetings via the public forum
(ii) Publicising the Annual Parish Meeting
(iii) Encouraging usage of the Council website and blog
(iv) Inviting residents/community groups to provide information for the Council Newsletter and website
(v) Issuing press releases covering activities of the Council
(vi) Encouraging Council members to actively become involved in community activities

Adopted on 26th February 2026
Review date: February 2027

To enable every Councillor to maximise their role as elected representatives and Community Leaders through:

(i) The preparation of a comprehensive New Members Pack
(ii) Uploading of agendas & minutes on the Council website
(iii) Encouraging Councillors to attend meetings of community organisations and village groups
(iv) Develop training plans for Councillors

To ensure every member of staff understands the council's priorities through:

(i) Having regular staff appraisals
(ii) Encouraging staff to prove input into the decision making process
(iii) Encouraging staff to actively represent the interest of the Council at community events

ENGAGEMENT

Listed below are the individuals/organisations which the Council wishes to actively engage with:

- NE Lincolnshire Council and the Town and Parish Liaison Committee
- Humber Chemical Focus
- All other Parish and Town Councils within North East Lincolnshire
- Ward Councillors and thereby other groups within Freshney Ward
- Great Coates Nursery School
- Great Coates Community Group
- St Nicolas Church, Great Coates
- Lincolnshire Association of Local Councils

HOW CAN THE SUCCESS BE MEAURED ?

- People feeling they are kept well informed by the Council
- People feeling that the Council listens to their views and acts on their concerns
- People feeling that complaints are handled well
- People feeling that the Council is trustworthy
- People feeling that they have opportunities to participate with the Council and can influence the decision making process
- People being satisfied with the way the Council runs things and with particular services.

ACTION PLAN

Minutes	Ensure copies of minutes are available on the Council website	Staff	Ongoing
Annual Report	Ensure Report is available on the Council website	Staff	Annually
Office Availability	Available at all reasonable hours by telephone and email.	Staff	Ongoing
Annual Parish Meeting	Publicise meetings on notice boards, websites, Facebook.	Staff	Ongoing
Public Forum	Encourage residents to raise any matters of interest or concern via the public forum part of Full Council	Staff & members	Monthly
Noticeboards	Regularly update noticeboards with council & community activities	Staff & members	Ongoing
Website	Maintain website with info on council services & activities	Staff & members	Ongoing
Newsletter	Produce and deliver a quarterly magazine and bi-monthly newsletter	Staff & members	Ongoing
Businesses	Engage with the businesses and business organisations	Staff & members	Ongoing
Local Democracy	Encourage Residents to both vote at and stand for the Council in Local Council elections	Staff & Members	Ongoing but high priority in the six months leading to local council elections
Press	Liaise regularly with the press sending details of council meetings and council activities	Staff	Ongoing
Ward Councillors	Maintain contact with Ward Councillors to ensure sharing of information	Staff & members	Ongoing