



Public Engagement and Consultation Panel

Key Messages.



Date of meeting: 6th March 2026.



Chair of Panel: Councillor Liz Dowd.



Officer Contact: Jayne Vincent.
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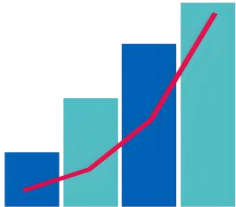


The reports are presented to the Public Consultation and Engagement Panel (The Panel).

This is what was discussed at the meeting: Public Space Protection Order (PSPO).



The Public Space Protection Order will have rules about how people should behave in Town Centres.



The consultation received 625 responses, the highest number to date for this type of consultation. Most questions received over 80% support.

One proposal, relating to groups of four or more people, received lower support (around 58%) as some respondents felt it was too strict.



How People Were Engaged.

The consultation was promoted through:

- The “Your Sefton, Your Say” online platform
- Council and local media, including the Echo
- Street engagement in Southport and Bootle using QR codes
- Paper surveys (no responses were returned this way)
- Youth groups and Sefton Young Advisors



Issues Identified.

- Responses were not representative of the wider community.
- Most responses came from White British residents aged 50 and over.
- Groups of people that didn't take part included:





- o People with protected characteristics
- o Community and voluntary groups
- o Seldom heard communities
- o Young people and younger adults
- o People who use the evening economy, for example, pubs, bars and restaurants.



The Panel said:

- Thank you for all the work that has been done.
- Future consultations should not repeat the same approach.
- A mix of methods is needed, including conversations, workshops and targeted outreach.
- Digital tools, including AI, could help capture conversations so staff can focus on listening.
- Engagement with young people and diverse communities must be strengthened and to set up a working group to look at this.
- Platforms such as TikTok should be explored.



Future PSPO Consultations.

The Police have requested a consultation for Aintree Retail Park, focusing on youth antisocial behaviour and shoplifting.



Chris asked for approval to use the same core questions but tailor the engagement locally, considering the feedback from the Panel.

This approach was supported.



For more information, please contact
Chris.white@sefton.gov.uk



Youth Voice Strategic Steering Group Update. Presented by Georgia Ribbens.

Have Your Say Sefton.

The current theme is jobs, employment and training.

Engagement has been taking place over two months through:

- o Surveys
- o Visits to community groups
- o Discussions with young people

A feedback session with Council Leaders will take place on the 12th March 2026.

Participation Champions.

This work is based on the Lundy model of participation. It is a way for understanding and bringing to life children's right to participation.

It is at an early stage and will return to the Panel with a clear engagement plan.

Youth Voice – Call for Evidence.

A new upload feature allows professionals to share documents showing youth voice activity.

The aim is to reduce duplication and improve shared learning.



Improving Feedback.

Youth Voice webpages are being updated to show:

- o Reports
- o Presentations
- o Short infographic summaries for young people

The Panel thanked Georgia and the team for the feedback and their work.

For more information, please contact Georgia.ribbens@seftoncvvs.org.uk.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Update Presented by Jessica Morrin.

Jessica gave a presentation about the Team and some of the work they are involved in.

The EDI team has three staff members working across:

- Corporate policy and training
- Service design
- Community cohesion



Some of the current work includes:



- Looking at the Zero Tolerance Policy (staff consultation ongoing).
- Having the same equality monitoring questions across the council.
- Improving Equality Impact Assessments so they are used earlier in service design.
- Launching a new in-house training package and developing staff guidance.
- Mapping engagement activity across the council and voluntary sector.
- Developing a community tension monitoring toolkit.
- Supporting the Sefton Soundings (Belong) listening engagement programme.



The Panel thanked Jessica for the update, and a discussion took place about:



- Feedback to communities needs to improve ("you said, we did").
- Better coordination is needed across teams and organisations.
- The EDI strategy will be informed by Belong's upcoming report.
- A clear timeline for the strategy is required.



For more information, please contact jessica.morrin@sefton.gov.uk

Equal Voices Network Update. Presented by Charanjeet Birdie.



The Equal Voices in Action Network focuses on practical action, not just listening.

Charanjeet shared the progress so far:



- Neurodiversity peer support workshops are being developed.
- Work has started on the RIPPLE Toolkit (Real Inclusive People Power Locally Every Day), which will:



- Encourage learning between communities
- Bring diverse groups together
- Challenge misinformation early
- Build community cohesion

The toolkit will be coproduced with communities through six focus groups before May 2026.



The Panel thanked Charanjeet for the update, and it was agreed that:

- Charanjeet and Jayne to work with Sefton CVS Communications to promote “Your Sefton, Your Say” and the Coproduction Hub.
- Charanjeet to provide a further update at the next Panel meeting.
- Consider how Elected Members can be more involved.



For more information, please contact Charanjeet.birdie@seftoncv.org.uk



Date of next meeting: 5th June 2026.