

Report of	Meeting	Date
Director (Planning and Property) Introduced by Executive Member (Planning and Development)	Council Meeting	16 th July 2024

Consultation on Statement of Community Involvement 2024

Is this report confidential?	No
------------------------------	----

Is this decision key?	No
-----------------------	----

Purpose of the Report

- To seek approval to publish for consultation the draft Statement of Community Involvement (SCI), attached at Appendix 1.

Recommendations

- To approve a four-week period of consultation as required prior to adoption.

Reasons for recommendations

- Public consultation is a statutory duty before the adoption of the SCI.

Other options considered and rejected

- No other options, as this action is required by legislation.

Corporate priorities

- The report relates to the following corporate priorities:

Housing where residents can live well	A green and sustainable borough
An enterprising economy with vibrant local centres in urban and rural areas	Healthy, safe and engaged communities

Statement of Community Involvement 2024

Background

- Local planning authorities are required to prepare a 'Statement of Community Involvement' (SCI). The purpose of the SCI is to provide the community with clarity on the levels of involvement and engagement that they should expect in the planning process with regard to plan-making and development management. The SCI sets out

the procedures and standards that the Council will follow when undertaking consultation with sectors of the community.

7. Chorley Council published and adopted its latest SCI in January 2019. Since then, there have been significant changes made to planning legislation, and guidance. Under Regulation 10A of The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended), local planning authorities must review local plans, and Statements of Community Involvement at least once every 5 years from their adoption date to ensure that policies remain relevant and effectively address the needs of the local community.
8. Therefore, Chorley Council has reviewed the SCI and produced this new SCI within the recommended timeframe to ensure it remains up to date and in particular, prior to the submission of the Local Plan to demonstrate compliance. This SCI, once adopted, will supersede the 2019 SCI.
9. The revised draft SCI is required to undergo a 4-week consultation with statutory consultees, neighbouring authorities, and other interest groups and individuals who have expressed an interest in being consulted on Local Plan matters.
10. It is proposed that following Council approval on 16 July 2024, consultation on the draft SCI will take place between Monday 19 August and Monday 16 September 2024 and following the analysis of responses and subject to there being no material changes, a decision to adopt to SCI is made by Council in the winter of 2024.

Content

11. This SCI is divided into two distinct areas, relating to community involvement opportunities in preparation of planning policy and development management (such as planning applications). Different regulations and procedures apply to these two areas. Even though the Council's planning policy and development management teams work hand in hand, it is useful to explore the different opportunities for community involvement in each area of planning practice.
12. This SCI covers the consultation process for Local Plan, Supplementary Development Plans (SPDs) and Neighbourhood Plans (NPs) in section 3, 4 and 5.
13. Consultation on the emerging Central Lancashire Local Plan will need to meet the requirements in the adopted SCI as a minimum, as well as meeting the requirements of both South Ribble and Preston's SCIs. For information, South Ribble has adopted their revised SCI recently.
14. The adoption of the SCI will set the standards for community engagement in all planning policy matters, such as the Local Plan process, as well as detailing pre-application consultation and consultation on planning applications. The Council must adhere to the SCI for all consultations relating to planning issues. The methods of consultation set out in the SCI are a minimum standard that the Council is expected to undertake as part of the planning process. In certain circumstances, if it were felt necessary, wider consultation techniques can be used, in addition to those set out in the SCI.
15. Development Management officers have been engaged in the process of reviewing and updating the SCI.
16. The proposed change to the main body of the SCI is to update the outdated information, including contact details, relevant legislation, Chorley's Development Plan Structure, Deposit Point and the list of statutory consultees in Appendix 2. In addition, the table of

consultation methods at each stage of local plan preparation had been updated to maintain consistency with South Ribble Borough Council and Preston City Council.

17. With regards to Neighbourhood Plans, we have also set out the stages for consultation relating to the development of a neighbourhood plan as required by national legislation (some of which is the responsibility of the neighbourhood planning group but at least one stage is the responsibility of the Council).
18. In terms of development management, we have updated the publicity on Planning and Heritage Applications to illustrate the publicity on different planning and heritage applications currently.
19. Consultation on the revised SCI will take place between 19 August 2024 to 16 September 2024 and following this, officers will consider any comments made and incorporate these where appropriate. The SCI will then be considered for adoption by Council in the winter of 2024.
20. There will be no in person consultation events for the revised SCI.
21. The consultation will be publicised in a number of ways: The Council will notify all statutory and key consultees listed in Appendix 2 of SCI, relevant stakeholders, and any individuals and organisations who have expressed a wish to be consulted in the Council's planning policy consultation database. In addition to this, the consultation will also be publicised via the Council's website and through social media and will be available to view at the Council Office on Union Street, Chorley.
22. Consultees will be able to view the document and make comments online and/or via planning policy team's email.

Climate change and air quality

23. The work noted in this report has no impact on the Councils Carbon emissions and the wider Climate Emergency and sustainability targets of the Council.

Equality and diversity

24. There will be a positive impact to promote equality and diversity as we will set out the levels of involvement and engagement that the public should expect in the planning process with regard to plan-making and development management.

Risk

25. There is a risk to the Local Plan if this review of the SCI is not completed and a refreshed SCI published ahead of the Local Plan examination. Offensive comments may be received during consultation which will be dealt with accordingly.

Comments of the Statutory Finance Officer

26. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

Comments of the Monitoring Officer

27. The legal framework is set out in the body of the report. Consultation is a necessary step to ensure the SCI meets the needs of the council, residents and stakeholders and

ensures the council is legally compliant. A 4-week consultation period is appropriate and reasonable.

Background documents

There are no background papers to this report

Appendices

Appendix A Consultation Version of Statement of Community Involvement 2024

Report Author:	Email:	Telephone:	Date:
Chun Wai-Kwok (Project Manager (Central Lancashire Local Plan))	eric.kwok@chorley.gov.uk	01257515151	20/6/2024