

Report of	Meeting	Date
Chief Executive (Introduced by the Executive Member for Public Protection)	Executive Cabinet	26 June 2014

DRAFT STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT (SCI)

PURPOSE OF REPORT

- To advise Members of the content of the draft Statement of Community Involvement attached at Appendix 1 and approve it for 4 weeks consultation.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

- To approve the draft Statement of Community Involvement for 4 weeks consultation.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF REPORT

- The Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) will provide the community and other interested parties with clarity on the levels of involvement in the planning process. It details how the Council will consult in relation to preparing planning policy documents and in determining planning applications. Once finalised, the Council is required to act in accordance with the adopted document. The Council adopted an SCI in 2006, however this is now out-of-date. A revised draft SCI has been prepared, which will be subject to a 4 week consultation between Monday 30 June and Monday 28 July 2014.

Confidential report Please bold as appropriate	Yes	No
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Key Decision? Please bold as appropriate	Yes	No
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Reason Please bold as appropriate	1, a change in service provision that impacts upon the service revenue budget by £100,000 or more	2, a contract worth £100,000 or more
	3, a new or unprogrammed capital scheme of £100,000 or more	4, Significant impact in environmental, social or physical terms in two or more wards

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)

(If the recommendations are accepted)

- To ensure that the Council fulfils its commitment set out in the Local Development Scheme to produce such documents in a timely fashion.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

5. None as subject to statutory regulations as how prepared.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

6. This report relates to the following Strategic Objectives:

Involving residents in improving their local area and equality of access for all	x	A strong local economy	
Clean, safe and healthy communities		An ambitious council that does more to meet the needs of residents and the local area	x

BACKGROUND

7. The Framework para 155 continues to place emphasis on early engagement with interested parties in development control and the development of Local Plan documents, indicating that a wide section of the community should be proactively engaged.
8. Under section 18 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) are required to produce a Statement of Community Involvement (SCI), which outlines the Council's strategy for involving community groups, stakeholders and other organisations in the preparation and review of planning policy documents, and in the consideration of planning applications.
9. The Council adopted an SCI in 2006, however this is now out-of-date. A revised SCI has been prepared for consultation outlining how the Council now consults on all aspects of planning. This SCI has been produced in line with the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended).

STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

10. The policy aim behind the new 2012 regulations (as amended) above is to reflect the reforms set out in the Localism Act 2011, consolidate the changes made to the 2004 Regulations into a single document; and ensure the new regulations are as effective and simple as possible.
11. The main changes incorporated into the SCI are:
- Local planning authorities are required to make information on their planning activity available to their communities as soon as it is ready, and to do so on-line;
 - The new regulations prescribe additional bodies that are subject to the 'duty to co-operate' under section 110 of the Localism Act 2011.
 - The preparation and adoption stages by local planning authorities of development plan documents and supplementary planning documents including as to consultation with interested persons and bodies and the documents which must be made available at each stage.
12. The SCI also covers the consultation process for when a Neighbourhood Plan application is submitted and the consultation process for the Community Infrastructure Levy Charging Schedule.
13. Each planning authority has a statutory requirement to state how it will involve the community in preparing planning policy documents and in determining planning applications. Through the SCI, the planning authority sets out clearly how and when the community, and other interested parties, can expect to be involved in the planning process.

14. Although part of the Local Development Framework, the SCI is not required to undergo the same level of consultation that other documents are. The draft SCI will undergo a consultation period of 4 weeks between Monday 30 June and Monday 28 July 2014. The Council will notify all statutory consultees and those who have a duty to co-operate. In addition to this, the Council will contact interest groups and organisations, and the consultation will also be publicised via the Council's website.
15. Following the 4 week consultation the SCI and comments will be reported back to Executive Cabinet on 28th August with a request to adopt or to adopt with changes as a result of the consultation.
16. Once approved, the SCI will set the standards for community engagement in all planning policy matters, such as the Local Development Framework 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

IMPLICATIONS OF REPORT

17. This report has implications in the following areas and the relevant Directors' comments are included:

Finance		Customer Services	x
Human Resources		Equality and Diversity	x
Legal		Integrated Impact Assessment required?	
No significant implications in this area		Policy and Communications	x

COMMENTS OF THE STATUTORY FINANCE OFFICER

18. The report sets out the Council's approach to consultation. The biggest element of cost is likely to be officer time which is contained within the Council's base budget. There may be some marginal costs dependent upon the scale of the consultation, but these will be contained within current budget allocations where possible. Any deviation required will be reported to Members.

COMMENTS OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

19. The legal position is properly detailed within the report.

COMMENTS OF THE HEAD OF POLICY AND COMMUNICATIONS

20. The statement of community involvement sets out an appropriate framework for engaging with relevant stakeholders throughout the planning process.

GARY HALL
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

There are no background papers to this report.

Report Author	Ext	Date	Doc ID
Alison Marland	5281	11 June 2014	***