

Report of	Meeting	Date
Director of Business Development and Growth	Council	09 April 2019

STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT 2019

PURPOSE OF REPORT

- To advise Members of the responses to the draft Statement of Community Involvement and adopt it as attached at Appendix A.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

- To adopt the Statement of Community Involvement.

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 2014, and this is therefore being updated. The revised draft SCI has been subject to a 4-week consultation between Friday 18 January and Friday 15 February 2019, receiving 10 responses (1 had no comment to make, 1 support, 6 responses to suggest amendments to the document and 2 responses to confirm contact details). A minor amendment is proposed to the main body of the document (paragraph 3.18) and relevant statutory consultees will be added or amended at Appendix 1 of the document. It is recommended the Statement of Community Involvement is adopted.

Confidential report Please bold as appropriate	Yes	No
--	-----	----

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- 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 homes and communities		An ambitious council that does more to meet the needs of residents and the local area	x

BACKGROUND

- 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. The Council adopted an SCI in 2014, and this is therefore being updated.

6. The revised SCI has been produced in line with the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended) which states an SCI review must be completed every five years, starting from the date of adoption of the statement of community involvement. The main changes to the SCI of 2014 include:
 - Where possible, the SCI has been made more concise;
 - Information has been added on the preparation of the Central Lancashire Local Plan, including a website link;
 - Paragraph on Statutory Instrument 2013 No 2932 (relating to wind turbines) has been deleted
 - A new section on Prior Approval has been added;
 - A new section on Permission in Principle has been added; and
 - The list of statutory consultees and duty-to-cooperate organisations at Appendix 1 has been updated.
7. The SCI also covers the consultation process for Supplementary Planning Documents (paras. 2.8-2.13), when a Neighbourhood Plan application is submitted (paras. 2.14-2.19), and the consultation process for the Community Infrastructure Levy Charging Schedule (paras. 2.21-2.24).
8. Local planning authorities have a statutory requirement to state how they will involve the community in preparing planning policy documents and in determining planning applications. Through the SCI, the local planning authority sets out clearly how and when the community, and other interested parties, can expect to be involved in the planning process. An Integrated Impact Assessment has been prepared in relation to the Statement of Community Involvement.

STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT CONSULTATION RESPONSES

9. The revised SCI was subject to 4 weeks public consultation between Friday 18 January and Friday 15 February 2019. The SCI is not required to undergo the same level of consultation that other planning documents are. The Council notified all statutory consultees and those who have a duty to co-operate. In addition to this, the Council contacted interest groups and organisations and the consultation was publicised via the Council's website, "In the Know" - the Councillors electronic newsletter - and "In the Borough" - the Parish Councillors electronic letter - which extends to the Council's partners, community and voluntary groups.
10. Ten responses were received to the consultation on the draft SCI. The key points resulting in changes to the SCI are summarised here and Appendix 1: Summary of Outcomes provides a more detailed summary and information about how comments received have been used to inform the final SCI.
11. The only proposed change to the main body of the report is in response to a comment from Anderton Parish Council, who expressed concerns regarding Section 3 of the SCI in respect of the development of the policy regarding pre-application consultation for planning applications. They are concerned that the impression is given that by following pre-application advice a positive outcome to a formal planning application is almost guaranteed, which goes against the formal consultation process. They also do not see the need for quoting a specific number (90%) of planning applications in paragraph 3.18, which relates to the decision process for determining planning applications. In response to this comment, Paragraph 3.18 of the SCI will be updated in line with the Council's webpage on the planning application process as follows: '*Approximately 90% of applications are decided in this way*'.

12. Appendix 1 of the Draft SCI will be updated in light of clarifications from the following consultees: Highways England, Euxton Parish Council and the Lead Local Flood Authority, regarding names changes for some organisations.
13. 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.

IMPLICATIONS OF REPORT

14. 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

15. No comment

COMMENTS OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

16. No comment

MARK LESTER

DIRECTOR OF BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND GROWTH

Background Papers		
Document	Date	File
Appendix 1 Statement of Community Involvement April 2019	April 2019	Union Street
Appendix 2 Statement of Community Involvement April 2019		

Report Author	Ext	Date
Philippa Lane	5282	28 February 2019