

UPDATE TO THE STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 On the basis that the Council formally adopt the Local Plan 2016-2036 Part 1: Planning Strategy 6th July 2020, it is recommended that the Cabinet:
- i) agree to a 6 week consultation on the proposed amendments (Appendix 1 shown in red) to the Statement of Community Involvement
 - ii) that the outcome of the consultation be reported back to Cabinet for it to consider whether to adopt the amended document.

2. INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The purpose of this report is for the Cabinet to consider the draft amendments to the Statement of Community Involvement and to seek authority to consult on the document.in
- 2.2 Planning directly affects the places where people live and work, the economy and resident's health and well-being. Meaningful public consultation and engagement on all aspects of planning is vital. It allows communities to have an input in the Planning system and by maintaining community involvement at the centre of what the Council does, we can gain a real understanding of our community's priorities.
- 2.3 The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires the Council to have a Statement of Community Involvement (SCI).
- 2.4 The Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) only relates to Planning. The SCI is a statutory document which sets out the consultation and engagement methods that the Council will use to involve interested residents, groups, organisations, businesses and other representatives and individuals in the planning process. It explains who will be consulted, when and how. The document describes how the Council will involve the community and stakeholders in the preparation and review of planning policy documents and the consideration of planning applications.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Council's Statement of Community Involvement was originally adopted in 2015 and revised in August 2018 to reflect the provisions of the Neighbourhood Planning Act 2017.
- 3.2 There are several matters that have led to the need to review the document at this time which are;
- As part of on-going review work relating to Development Management neighbour notification and community engagement in pre-application work has been reviewed with the current Statement of Community Engagement needing to reflect this work.

- Government guidance, in light of the Covid 19 pandemic, on reviewing and updating Statement of Community Involvement together with the introduction by government of temporary regulations to supplement the existing statutory publicity arrangements for planning applications and environmental statement for EIA development in response to the coronavirus.
- The forthcoming report to Full Council seeking adoption of The Local Plan 2016-2036 Part 1: Planning Strategy resulting in amendments to the SCI
- Feedback from residents relating to Neighbourhood Plan making to include further information within the SCI to clarify the responsibility of the 'Qualifying Body' for consultation with communities and statutory consultees.

3.3 The amended draft Statement of Community Involvement is set out at Appendix 1 showing track change (underlined sections are those added).

4 CONCLUSIONS

4.1 The updated draft Statement of Community Involvement, whilst a required statutory document is a critical part of the Council's commitment to the community, it is important that the document is reviewed from time to time to ensure that it is up to date and details to the community how the Council will involve it in the Planning of the area. The Environment Overview & Scrutiny Panel was supportive of the document having considered it at its meeting on 11 June 2020, prior to consideration of the draft document by the Portfolio for Planning and Infrastructure and this full report to Cabinet.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 No direct

6. CRIME & DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

6.1 None

7. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 To ensure that the Council delivers high quality development within its area that reflects the needs of local communities.

8. EQUALITY & DIVERSITY IMPLICATION

8.1 None

9. DATA PROTECTION IMPLICATIONS

9.1 None

10. PORTFOLIO HOLDER COMMENTS

10.1 I support the recommendations for the reasons set out within the report.

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Background Papers:

Published documents