

ADOPTION OF REVISED STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 Following public consultation on a review of the Council's Statement of Community Involvement, it is recommended that the Cabinet and Full Council:-
- i) note the outcomes of the public consultation that took place for 6 weeks on the proposed amendments to the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI).
 - ii) agree the changes to the SCI set out in Appendix 2 and (subject to any final non-material editing) adopt the amended SCI 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 adopt the revised SCI following the 6 weeks period of public consultation carried out in July-August 2020.
- 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 of their area. 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 adopted in 2015 and revised in August 2018 to reflect the provisions of the Neighbourhood Planning Act 2017.
- 3.2 As reported to the 1st July 2020 Cabinet, 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 Statement of Community Involvement needing to reflect this work.
 - Government guidance, in light of the Covid19 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 adoption of The Local Plan 2016-2036 Part 1: Planning Strategy in July 2020 resulting in the need for some 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.

4. CONSULTATION RESPONSE

- 4.1 Following the 1st July 2020 Cabinet resolution to go out for consultation, the draft revised SCI was subject to 6 weeks of formal public consultation from Wednesday 8th July 2020 – Friday 21st August 2020. The comments received during the consultation have been considered and some minor changes, as indicated in the schedule in Appendix 2, are recommended. These have been incorporated in the document in Appendix 1. (Note: the previous changes proposed are shown in track changes in underlined sections, with yellow highlighted text showing changes made since the public consultation in July-August 2020).

5. CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 The Statement of Community Involvement, whilst a required statutory document, is also a critical statement of the Council's commitment to involvement of the community in planning matters. 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. Following a 6-week period of public consultation, the Council has revised the statement to take account of the comments made.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 No direct.

7. CRIME & DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 None.

8. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

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

9. EQUALITY & DIVERSITY IMPLICATION

- 9.1 None.

10. DATA PROTECTION IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 None.

11. PORTFOLIO HOLDER COMMENTS

- 11.1 While the Statement of Community Involvement may seem dry stuff, it is the bedrock of how this Council consults with residents, public bodies, interest groups and many other

stakeholders on both in regards to changing local planning policy and planning applications. I believe that the proposed document ensures that the Council will continue to consult in a meaningful and proportionate way on planning matters and support the recommendations.

For further information contact:

Claire Upton-Brown
023 8028 5409
Claire.upton-brown@NFDC.gov.uk

Andrew Herring
023 8028 5471
Andrew.herring@NFDC.gov.uk

Background Papers:

Appendix 1 – Revised SCI (as amended following public consultation)

Appendix 2 – Statement of Consultation Sept 2020 (and NFDC response to comments)