

Chichester District Council

THE CABINET

19 June 2017

THE COUNCIL (SPECIAL)

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Draft Statement of Community Involvement for Public Consultation

1. Contacts

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2. Recommendations

That the Cabinet recommends to the Council that:

- i) The Statement of Community Involvement be approved for a six-week public consultation.**
- ii) Authority be delegated to the Head of Planning Services, following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Planning Services to enable minor amendments to be made to the document prior to and following public consultation.**

3. Background

- 3.1** It is a requirement of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 for a Local Authority to produce a Statement of Community Involvement (SCI). An SCI sets out the Council's approach to engage the public and other stakeholders in all planning policy and development management matters to ensure that as many people as possible are able to have a say in planning decisions that affect them.
- 3.2** The document will provide guidance on how the planning system works and sets out how the Council will inform, consult and involve people in both the preparation of planning policy documents and decisions on planning applications. It also sets out guidance on the preparation of Neighbourhood Plans.

4. Outcomes to be Achieved

- 4.1. Engagement of the public in the preparation of an up to date Statement of Community Involvement which reflects current government guidance and provides a commitment to effective consultation.

5. Proposal

- 5.1 The current SCI was adopted in January 2013. The document has been revised factually with updated hyperlinks to appropriate guidance. It has also accounted for potential changes set out within the former Neighbourhood Planning Bill. These include that;

- Local Authorities should review (and if necessary update) their statement of community involvement at least every five years.
- Local Authorities should include their policies on providing advice or assistance to groups preparing neighbourhood plans.
- Local Authorities should include their policies for involving interested parties in the preliminary stages of plan-making.

- 5.2 The proposed SCI (appendix 1) has been updated to incorporate these likely statutory requirements and to avoid the need for a subsequent immediate update. The proposed SCI will be subject to public consultation before revision and adoption under delegated powers if only minor changes are required.

- 5.3 The proposed SCI contains:

- A demonstration in simple terms of the Council's commitment to ensure that community and stakeholder engagement is effective, involvement is genuine, and that planning decisions are accountable.
- How these principles will be applied to strategic plan-making and development management decisions.
- A description of the different types of planning policy documents and the processes involved in their adoption.
- A diagram demonstrating the three stages of planning policy document production, and explanation of the statutory regulations relating to the production process.
- A list of statutory consultees.
- Information on support provided for neighbourhood planning with referenced links to guidance documents such as 'Support for Neighbourhood Planning Groups' which has been updated accordingly.
- Development Management consultations and decision making.

6. Alternatives Considered

- 6.1 The alternative is not to proceed with updating the SCI however this may result in the document not complying with Government regulations.

7. Resource and Legal Implications

- 7.1 There are no significant resource or legal implications arising from the preparation and adoption of the SCI.

8. Consultation

- 8.1 Once approved, the draft SCI will be made available for public consultation. Consultation will be undertaken for a period of 6 weeks between 22 June 2017 and 3 August 2017.
- 8.2 Initial consultation on the draft document has been undertaken with the Communities Team and the Development Plan and Infrastructure Panel (DPIP). There were no changes made as a result of consideration at the DPIP meeting.

9. Community Impact and Corporate Risks

- 9.1 Once adopted the SCI will continue to provide transparency in the Council's approach to engaging the public and other stakeholders in all planning policy and development management matters and will form a commitment that will be taken into account when undertaking consultations.

10. Other Implications

Crime and Disorder	None
Climate Change	None
Human Rights and Equality Impact	None
Safeguarding and Early Help	None

11. Appendices

- 11.1 Revised SCI

12. Background Papers

- 12.1 None