

# Chichester District Council

Full Council

23 January 2024

## Finalised Draft Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) for Adoption

### 1. Contacts

**Report Author:**

Louise Brace, Planning Policy Officer

Telephone: 01243 521212. Email: [lbrace@chichester.gov.uk](mailto:lbrace@chichester.gov.uk)

**Cabinet Member:**

Bill Brisbane, Cabinet Member for Planning

Telephone: 07836 273501. Email: [bbrisbane@chichester.gov.uk](mailto:bbrisbane@chichester.gov.uk)

### 2. Recommendation

**That Council approve the finalised draft Statement of Community Involvement for adoption.**

### 3. Background

- 3.1 It is a requirement of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 for a Local Authority to prepare a Statement of Community Involvement (SCI). An SCI sets out the Council's approach to engagement with the public and other stakeholders on planning policy and development management matters, to ensure that people are involved in planning decisions that affect them.
- 3.2 Under regulation 10A of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended) local planning authorities must review Statements of Community Involvement at least once every 5 years to ensure effective community involvement at all stages of the planning process.
- 3.3 Government guidance recognises it is good practice for authorities to inform the public of their intention to update an SCI, and of the changes that have been made.

### 4. Outcomes to be achieved

- 4.1. An up-to-date SCI, in accordance with regulatory requirements and best practice, that promotes and enables constructive engagement in the planning process with the Council.

## 5. Proposal

- 5.1 The current adopted SCI was last revised in January 2018. The proposed SCI has been updated with factual amendments to reflect minor changes to planning processes, and to provide new hyperlinks to relevant guidance and supplementary information.
- 5.2 The draft SCI was first considered by the Development Plan and Infrastructure Panel on 26 July 2023. Suggested amendments from the panel were incorporated into the draft, which received approval from Cabinet on 5 September and was subject to a 6 week period of public consultation from 27 September.
- 5.3 The consultation resulted in 12 representations from 10 respondents, summarised as follows:
- Chidham and Hambrook Parish Council commented on the complexity and time-consuming nature of the planning appeals process for local residents;
  - The Environment Agency sought to clarify its own status as a statutory consultee for certain types of planning application;
  - Friends of the Old Ford to Hunston Canal commented on the need to consult the Inland Waterways Association when affecting navigable waterways, and the importance of notification via site notices for the full statutory consultation period;
  - Historic England commented that the proposed consultation process was adequate;
  - National Highways support CDC's recommendation to engage consultees within pre-application discussions, and drew attention to Department for Transport Circular 1/22 which summarises NH's approach to engagement with the planning system;
  - Natural England conveyed general support for the principle of meaningful and early engagement between the community and statutory bodies on local planning matters;
  - A local resident suggested amendments to the description of neighbourhood planning within the draft statement;
  - Wisborough Green Parish Council raised concerns that the recent Regulation 19 Local Plan consultation was insufficiently accessible and therefore discriminatory and undemocratic;
  - Surrey County Council and Waverley Borough Council responded to advise they had no comments to make.
- 5.4 In response to the representations, the draft SCI was amended to clarify the extent of council responsibilities regarding the production of Development Plan Documents at paragraph 2.3, and to confirm the description of statutory consultees and 'Specific Consultation Bodies' as well as the non-exhaustive nature of the list provided at paragraph 3.4. Other matters raised were considered beyond the scope of the SCI.

## 6. Alternatives that have been considered

- 6.1 The alternative is not to proceed with updating the SCI. This may, however, result in the document not complying with Government regulations and best practice.

## 7. Resource and legal implications

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

## 8. Community impact and corporate risks

- 8.1 Following adoption, the revised SCI will provide continued clarity and transparency on 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 need to be considered when undertaking consultation.

## 9. Other Implications

	Yes	No
<b>Crime and Disorder</b>		✓
<b>Climate Change</b>		✓
<b>Human Rights and Equality Impact</b>		✓
<b>Safeguarding and Early Help</b>		✓
<b>General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)</b> The SCI references established arrangements to ensure the necessary protection of personal information	✓	
<b>Health and Wellbeing</b>		✓

## 10. Appendices

- 11.1 Appendix 1 – Revised SCI

## 11. Background Papers

- 12.1 None