

Report for: Adoption



Contains Confidential or Exempt Information	<i>NO - Part I</i>
Title	Adoption of the Statement of Community Involvement
Responsible Officer(s)	Russell O'Keefe, Strategic Director of Corporate and Community Services 01628 796521
Contact officer, job title and phone number	Chris Hilton, Director of Planning, Development and Regeneration 01628 683811
Member reporting	Councillor Derek Wilson, Lead Member for Planning
For Consideration By	Cabinet
Date to be Considered	28 July 2016
Implementation Date if Not Called In	Immediately
Affected Wards	All

REPORT SUMMARY

1. This report seeks the adoption of the Statement of Community Involvement, which is a document setting out how the Council will engage with the public and other stakeholders in the production of planning documents and when making decisions on planning applications.

If recommendations are adopted, how will residents benefit?

Benefits to residents and reasons why they will benefit	Dates by which residents can expect to notice a difference
1. Helps the public and other stakeholders to understand what they might expect when they are invited to be involved in the planning process.	12 August 2016

1. DETAILS OF RECOMMENDATIONS

RECOMMENDATION: That Cabinet:

- i. Approve the adoption of the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) document for use in consultation on planning matters.

ii. Delegate authority to the Strategic Director of Corporate and Community Services in liaison with the Lead Member for Planning to make any future minor amendments.

2. REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION(S) AND OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 The production and adoption of the SCI is required under the Planning Acts and the importance of good community engagement in planning is set out in policy from the Government through the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (March 2012).
- 2.2 The Council is legally required to produce a SCI. The document seeks to balance good community engagement on planning matters with efficient use of resources required to implement consultation activities

Option	Comments
Do not adopt the SCI	The Council would be in breach of legal requirements and would not set out clearly to residents and stakeholders how it will consult on planning matters
Adopt the SCI Recommended option	The Council would meet its legal requirements and would set out clearly to residents and stakeholders how it will consult on planning matters

3 KEY IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The Council will engage with the public and key stakeholders when discharging its statutory planning functions in an efficient and effective way. Outcomes will vary according to the matter being consulted, so specific outcomes cannot be defined in advance.

Defined Outcomes	Unmet	Met	Exceeded	Significantly Exceeded	Date they should be delivered by
The approaches set out in the SCI are used in Planning Decisions and the production of Planning Documents where appropriate	When not used	Used	Wide range of effective methods used		Ongoing

4. FINANCIAL DETAILS

Financial impact on the budget

4.1 The implementation of the processes in the SCI document will be carried out within existing budgets.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The production and adoption of the SCI is required under the Planning Acts and the importance of good community engagement in planning is set out in policy from the Government through the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (March 2012), and relevant regulations; Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.

6. VALUE FOR MONEY

6.1 The methods used in the SCI for community involvement are designed to offer value for money.

7. SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT APPRAISAL

7.1 The sustainability impacts of the SCI are limited but the documents and decisions produced using the processes outlined could have substantial impacts. These would be assessed separately at the time and when implemented, the SCI will have generally positive impacts.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT

8.1 The main risk if the document is not adopted is that the Council will not have an up to date SCI which complies with current legislation and guidance which would undermine the production of planning documents and making of planning decisions.

Risks	Uncontrolled Risk	Controls	Controlled Risk
Successful legal challenge to plan production and decision-making	High	Adoption of a SCI	Low

9. LINKS TO STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

9.1 The SCI should help in delivering all the Council's Strategic Objectives: Put Residents First, Deliver Value for Money, Deliver Together with our Partners and Equip Ourselves for the Future.

10. EQUALITIES, HUMAN RIGHTS AND COMMUNITY COHESION

10.1 An Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) has not been completed; however the SCI seeks to engage with a wide range of people, groups and organisations with different backgrounds and several of the Councils relevant Forums are listed to ensure that appropriate groups, organisations and individuals are engaged in the processes involved.

11. STAFFING/WORKFORCE AND ACCOMMODATION IMPLICATIONS

11.1 None

12. PROPERTY AND ASSETS

12.1 None

13. ANY OTHER IMPLICATIONS

13.1 None

14. CONSULTATION

14.1 At Local Plans Working Group (LPWG) on the 31st May 2016, minor comments and suggestions were received and the document was amended accordingly with the revised version being circulated to the LPWG on 6th June 2016.

15. TIMETABLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

15.1 It is intended that the document should be implemented immediately, particularly in relation to the production of the new Borough Local Plan.

Date	Details
August 2016	Regulation 19, Consultation on the Borough Local Plan

16. APPENDICES

None

17. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- This is a statutory requirement under the Planning and Localism Acts and the importance of good community engagement in planning is set out in policy from the Government through the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (March 2012).

18. CONSULTATION (MANDATORY)

Name of consultee	Post held and Department	Date sent	Date received	See comments in paragraph:
Internal				
Cllr Derek Wilson	Lead Member for Planning	30 th June 16	30th June 16	Agreed
Alison Alexander	Managing Director/ Strategic Director Adults, Children and Health	28th June 16		
Simon Fletcher	Strategic Director	28th June 16		

Name of consultee	Post held and Department	Date sent	Date received	See comments in paragraph:
	Operations and Customer Services			
Richard Bunn	Interim Head of Finance	28th June 16		
Chris Targowski	Cabinet Policy Officer	28th June 16		
Sean O'Connor	SLS	28 th June 16	30 th June 16	Agreed
External				

REPORT HISTORY

Decision type:	Urgency item?
Key	No

Full name of report author	Job title	Full contact no:
Robert Paddison,	Project Lead Neighbourhood Plans	Ext 6508