
Revised Statement of Community Involvement (2019) – Supporting Information

1. Introduction/Background

- 1.1 The principle of ‘continuous community involvement’ underpins the planning system. This means that people and communities who will be affected by the Council’s planning policies should be directly involved in the plan making process and consideration of planning applications. The Government considers that this approach is essential in order to achieve local ownership and legitimacy of the policies that will shape the future distribution of land uses and development within the District. The aim is to produce a consensus at an early stage and therefore, minimise the need for a lengthy and controversial examination process.
- 1.2 Under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 the Council is required to produce a Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) which sets out how it intends to achieve the principle of continuous community involvement. The Council is expected to tailor its SCI to the specific needs and characteristics of the District and involve representative of all those interested in the planning of the area.
- 1.3 The SCI has been reviewed and updated to take into account current legislation and national planning policy requirements and consultation on the revised SCI took place in July/August 2019.

2. Supporting Information

- 2.1 The Council adopted its first SCI in July 2006, this was reviewed and updated in 2014 following changes to the planning process. The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) Regulations 2017 and the 2019 National Planning Policy Framework require that the SCI is reviewed at least every five years and as a result the SCI has been reviewed and updated to reflect the most up to date processes and procedures that we will use.

3. Revised Statement of Community Involvement

- 3.1 The revised SCI is attached at appendix D. It clearly sets out our policy for involving the community (including local people – those who live in, work or visit West Berkshire, parish and town councils and other organisations which represent key community interests, such as the North Wessex Downs AONB) in:
 - (1) The plan making process such as Development Plan Documents, Supplementary Planning Documents, the Community Infrastructure Levy and Neighbourhood Plans
 - (2) In the consideration of planning applications within the District.
- 3.2 It has been informed by the key principles in the Council’s Consultation Policy and Equality Policy.

4. Consultation on the draft Revised SCI

- 4.1 The draft Revised SCI was subject to public consultation in July/August 2019 and 19 responses were received to the consultation. A copy of all the comments received and the Council’s response to each comment is attached in Appendix E.
- 4.2 The comments received have been taken into account and minor changes made to the SCI where appropriate. The Revised SCI is attached at appendix D and includes tracked changes showing where changes have been made to the text following the consultation.

5. Proposals

- 5.1 The SCI is adopted by the Council and used to guide how the Community are involved in planning making and planning decisions.

6. Conclusion

- 6.1 The SCI sets out how the Council will engage with the community throughout the planning process. The SCI has been reviewed and updated as required by the current planning legislation. Members are asked to approve adoption of the Revised SCI.

7. Consultation and Engagement

- 7.1 Bryan Lyttle, Garry Rayner, Paula Amorelli, Laila Bassett and Sarah Ball have been consulted on the revised SCI. Local stakeholders, Statutory Consultees and all those on the Planning Policy consultation database were consulted as part of the public consultation which took place in July/August 2019.

Background Papers:

None

Subject to Call-In:

Yes: No:

- The item is due to be referred to Council for final approval
- Delays in implementation could have serious financial implications for the Council
- Delays in implementation could compromise the Council’s position
- Considered or reviewed by Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission or associated Task Groups within preceding six months
- Item is Urgent Key Decision
- Report is to note only

Wards affected:

All

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