
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.

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. Draft Reviewed Statement of Community Involvement

- 3.1 The draft 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.
- 3.3 Changes proposed to the current published SCI are indicated using tracked changes
- (1) Underlining for additions

(2) ~~Strikethrough~~ for deletions

3.4 Only minor changes have been made to the SCI as a result of the review, mainly to take into account changes in legislation and national planning policies and some other factual updates. It is worth highlighting that our approach to the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) has not changed; it is now set out in our Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document. In addition, as we now offer a pre-application advice service for all planning applications it is no longer necessary to have a separate section on significant applications.

4. Proposals

4.1 It is proposed that the SCI is approved for public consultation. If approved the consultation will take place over a 6 week period from Friday 12th July to Friday 23rd August 2019.

4.2 Following the consultation the comments received will be considered and any changes required will be made to the SCI. Approval would then be sort from Council to adopt the SCI in December 2019.

5. Conclusion

5.1 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 the draft SCI for public consultation.

6. Consultation and Engagement

6.1 Bryan Lyttle, Garry Rayner, Paula Amorelli, Laila Bassett and Sarah Ball have been consulted on the revised SCI. Local stakeholders will be consulted as part of the public consultation in summer 2019.

Background Papers:

None

Subject to Call-In:

Yes: No:

The item is due to be referred to Council for final approval



Wards affected:

All

Strategic Aims and Priorities Supported:

The proposals will help achieve the following Council Strategy aims:

- SLE – A stronger local economy**
- HQL – Maintain a high quality of life within our communities**
- MEC – Become an even more effective Council**

The proposals contained in this report will help to achieve the following Council Strategy priorities:

- HQL1 – Support communities to do more to help themselves**

MEC1 – Become an even more effective Council

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