
**Report of Head of Director of Place and Wellbeing
To
Portfolio Holder for Regeneration
On
10 April 2017**

Statement of Community Involvement

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1. The Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) is an integral part of the development of the Council's Local Plan. It sets out the ways in which Mansfield District Council will involve the community in the preparation, modification and continuing review of all of the Local Plan. The SCI will also be used when consulting on planning applications and explains to people how to be involved in appeals and enforcement issues.
- 1.2. The Council currently has a Statement of Community Involvement which was adopted on 21st January 2015, following public consultation. However, since the publication of the SCI a further stage of consultation is due to be carried out on the results of the Housing Economic Land Availability Assessment and this has warranted the re-writing/ updating of the document.

Key Decision – Whilst this decision upon consultation on the SCI is not a key decision the adoption of the SCI will be a key decision as it will impact on all wards within the District as it sets out the way in which we consult on all planning related matters.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- (i) That the Statement of Community Involvement, as outlined in Appendix A, be consulted on for a six week period.
- (ii) To delegate authority to the Director of Place and Wellbeing to agree any minor modifications to the Statement of Community Involvement in response to the consultation and for the Statement of Community Involvement to be adopted.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 This document is important as it outlines the Council's approach to public consultation and makes clear the importance that the Council place on it

- 3.2 In order to accommodate an extra stage of community consultation on the results of the Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment the SCI has been amended to only refer to the consultation methods that the authority may use to consult at both the informal and formal stages of local plan preparation as set out within the Town and County Planning (local planning) 2012 Regulations. This therefore allows greater flexibility as to when and how we consult on the local plan going forward. The Local Development Scheme (LDS) will be used to set out the various stages in the local plan process and it which stages there will be community consultation.
- 3.3 In preparing the revised SCI consideration has been given to changes in legislation, regulation and national policies. For example there is no longer a statutory requirement to advertise local plan consultations in the local press. To ensure that local plan consultation are advertised to local residents and businesses within the district updates of the local plan preparation will be published in 'My Mansfield' as well as using social media and other avenues to communicate with local residents and businesses.
- 3.4 Once adopted the Council will have to comply with the requirements of the SCI in relation to all Planning consultations and will need to show how this has been done at the time of the Local Plan examination.
- 3.5 The main aim of the SCI is to encourage people to engage with the planning process. Whether it relates to the Local Plan, a planning application on land adjoining them or concerns over development which is taking place which they were unaware of, the role of this document is to explain how they can engage with the Council and what the Council will do to make them aware of what is happening.

5. OPTIONS AVAILABLE

- 5.1 Whilst there are a number of possible alternative ways that the revised document could be set out and undertaken, this approach is considered to be a good compromise between detail, length and readability.

6. RISK ASSESSMENT OF RECOMMENDATIONS AND OPTIONS

That the new Statement of Community Involvement attached as Appendix A, be agreed for public consultation and adoption following any minor modifications recommended as part of the consultation.

Risk	Risk Assessment	Risk Level	Risk Management
Reputation	Carrying out this work avoids the risk of future criticism that the SCI is not up to date and current	Low.	The opportunity of carrying out this consultation shows that the Council is committed to consultation both in word and deed.

Legal	May face legal challenges in the future related to the Local Plan if consultation has not been carried out in accordance with the SCI.	Low	The revised SCI would prevent any legal challenge from being successful.
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7. ALIGNMENT TO COUNCIL PRIORITIES

7.1 Production of a Local Plan is one of the specific actions that needs to be undertaken as part of the Corporate Priorities and the Statement of Community Involvement is central to that as well as the council's general commitment to supporting community engagement.

8. IMPLICATIONS

8.1 It is important to note that no decision on this report will actually change Council Policy at this time. The adoption of this document simply re-enforces our commitment to continuing to provide opportunities for good community involvement in planning decisions.

- (a) Relevant Legislation – It is a requirement of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended by the Localism Act 2011) for The Council to produce a Statement of Community Involvement (SCI).
- (b) Human Rights - No impact as there are no changes to policy as a result of this report.
- (c) Equality and Diversity No impact as there are no changes to policy as a result of this report
- (d) Climate change and environmental sustainability- No impact as there are no changes to policy as a result of this report.
- (e) Crime and Disorder- No impact as there are no changes to policy as a result of this report.
- (f) Budget /Resource- No impact as there are no changes to policy as a result of this report.

9. COMMENTS OF STATUTORY OFFICERS

- (a) Head of Paid Service – no specific comments
- (b) Monitoring Officer – no specific comments
- (c) Section 151 Officer – no specific comments

10. CONSULTATION

Policy development has included discussions with Development Management.

11. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

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