



**Cabinet**

**12 March 2019**

**Statement of Community Involvement for Planning Policy  
and Planning Applications**

**Report of the Executive Manager - Communities**

**Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Housing, Planning and Waste Management  
Councillor R Upton**

**1. Purpose of report**

- 1.1. The Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) sets out the Borough Council's policies on community involvement in planning policy preparation and the determination of planning applications. A revised SCI was published and consulted on over a six week period ending on 28 June 2018. A total of eight organisations and individuals submitted representations.
- 1.2. The representations received have been considered and a number of revisions to the draft SCI are proposed in response. It is recommended that the revised SCI be adopted for use in the preparation of planning policy and the determination of planning applications.

**2. Recommendation**

It is RECOMMENDED that Cabinet adopts the revised draft Statement of Community Involvement for Planning Policy and Planning Applications.

**3. Reasons for Recommendation**

- 3.1. The Statement of Community Involvement for Planning Policy and Planning Applications will, if adopted, set out the Council's policies on community involvement in planning policy preparation and the determination of planning applications. It would replace the existing, 2016 Statement of Community Involvement.

**4. Supporting Evidence**

- 4.1. Section 18 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004) requires local planning authorities to prepare a Statement of Community Involvement (SCI). The SCI must set out how persons and organisations, who appear to the authority to have an interest in matters relating to development in the area, will be involved in the Council's plan making and development management functions.
- 4.2. The Council adopted its first SCI in June 2007 and revised it in September 2016. Since 2007 the SCI has governed the public participation undertaken during the preparation of the Local Plan Part 1: Core Strategy and Local Plan

Part 2: Land and Planning Policies. It has also established the consultation methods on planning applications.

- 4.3. While the SCI was updated as recently as 2016, there is a requirement to update two parts of the document. Firstly, it is now a legal requirement for the SCI to set out the Borough Council's policy for discharging its statutory duty to advise and assist on the production of Neighbourhood Plans. Chapter 3 of the SCI has been added in order to discharge this legal requirement.
- 4.4. Secondly, amendments have been made to chapter 4 (Planning Applications) to reflect the changes to the make-up and operation of Planning Committee. There have also been minor factual amendments throughout the document.
- 4.5. A replacement draft SCI with these revisions was published in June 2018 and consulted on over a six week period ending on 28 July 2018. A total of eight representations were received from: Historic England; Barton in Fabis, Ruddington and Saxondale parish councils/meeting; three residents; and the Council's Data Protection Officer.
- 4.6. A summary of all representations received is set out at **Appendix 1**. The comments are grouped on the basis of those relating to development plan and supplementary planning documents preparation and those which concern the process of determining planning applications.
- 4.7. Historic England welcomed the proposed consultation with specific consultation bodies, but did not make detailed comments. Responses from the parish councils raised concerns regarding the location of local plan consultation events and the planning application process, most notably: pre-application consultation; the need to consult businesses and voluntary groups; the additional weight that should be attached to significant numbers of objections; the delegation of applications to officers; constraints on speaking at planning committee; and discussions on financial contributions.
- 4.8. The Council's Data Protection Officer suggested a number of amendments that ensure compliance with data protection legislation and the appropriate management of private and personal information.
- 4.9. Alongside the summary of comments at **Appendix 1** is a proposed response to each one. In response to some of the comments made, it is considered that a limited number of revisions to the draft SCI are justified. These and other relatively minor revisions have been incorporated into the revised draft SCI at **Appendix 2**.

## **5. Other Options Considered**

- 5.1. Cabinet could choose not to adopt the revised draft Statement of Community Involvement for Planning Policy and Planning Applications. This option is considered inappropriate as the 2016 SCI does not take account of regulatory changes since the SCI was published or refer to current practice in respect of neighbourhood planning.

## **6. Risk and Uncertainties**

- 6.1. The Council's existing Statement of Community Involvement is no longer up to date. It would therefore be unsatisfactory to continue to place reliance on the existing SCI and not aim to replace it with a new revised version.

## **7. Implications**

### **7.1. Finance**

- 7.1.1. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

### **7.2. Legal**

- 7.2.1. It is a statutory requirement for the Council to have a Statement of Community Involvement in place covering community engagement in relation to development plan preparation and the determination of planning applications.

### **7.3 Equalities**

- 7.3.1 None.

### **7.4 Corporate Priorities**

- 7.4.1 The adoption of the Rushcliffe Local Plan, which the revised SCI would assist in achieving, is a key element of the Council's corporate priority of supporting economic growth to ensure a sustainable, prosperous and thriving local economy.

### **7.5 Other Implications**

- 7.5.1 None.

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<b>Background papers Available for Inspection:</b>	Rushcliffe Statement of Community Involvement - Adopted June 2016  <a href="http://www.rushcliffe.gov.uk/planningpolicy/localplan/communityinvolvement/">http://www.rushcliffe.gov.uk/planningpolicy/localplan/communityinvolvement/</a>
<b>List of appendices (if any):</b>	<b>Appendix 1</b> - Consultation Statement and summary of representations  <b>Appendix 2</b> - Revised Draft Statement of Community Involvement for Planning Policy and Planning Applications