

DECISION TAKER: Cabinet Member for Place and Local Plan, Councillor Jackie Porter

TITLE: STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

9 OCTOBER 2023

Contact Officer: Bethany Stokes Tel No: 01962 848909 Email: bstokes@winchester.gov.uk

WARD(S): ALL (OUTSIDE SOUTH DOWNS NATIONAL PARK)

DECISION:

That the minor changes to the Statement of Community Involvement be approved as set out at Appendix 1, for public consultation for a period of 6 weeks commencing Tuesday 10th October 2023.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

The Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) describes how the public, businesses and interest groups can get involved in the creation of local planning policy, neighbourhood planning and the planning application decision making process aimed at shaping where we live, work and enjoy the natural and built environment. This is essential to help improve understanding and openness of the planning process. It also identifies how people and groups can engage with the planning system in the best way.

The SCI complements the Council's broader commitment contained within the Council Plan with regards to promoting positive community engagement with local communities, businesses, and interest groups. In our consultations, we are always striving for innovation to ensure we get as many responses as possible. The Strategic Planning team recently won two RTPi awards for their consultation methods for going above and beyond to ensure everyone could have their say.

The preparation of a SCI is a legal requirement of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended). Once adopted, the Council is legally obliged to comply with its SCI. The Council has to update the SCI every 5 years. The current SCI was adopted in 2018, and therefore it is required to be updated. This version reflects the government's latest planning policy guidance and legislation including the revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, 2021).

Whilst there is no legal requirement to consult on the proposed changes, this paper seeks authorisation for minor changes to the Statement of Community Involvement

set out at Appendix 1, to be consulted on for a period of 6 weeks commencing 10th October 2023. Responses and any consequential changes required will then be reported to a meeting of Cabinet Committee for adoption.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

Option 1 proposed because it is important that we have an up to date SCI less than 5 years old to reflect developing communication methods

Option 2 – retain the existing SCI: to carry on using the previously adopted 2018 SCI. This is not considered an appropriate option because it would mean that the Council have an out of-date SCI. It will also not accord with current arrangements for public consultation and community engagement on planning matters and National policy, regulations and/or wider corporate practice or objectives and will not consider the amendments made because of the public consultation.

Option 1 is recommended as the preferred option as it would ensure that everyone can provide comments on the revised SCI and this would be in accordance with the advice at the Planning Inspectorate Advisory meeting.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None.

DISPENSATION GRANTED BY CHIEF EXECUTIVE:

None.

APPROVED BY: Jackie Porter

DATE: 09.10.2023

COUNCILLOR JACKIE PORTER, CABINET MEMBER FOR PLACE AND LOCAL PLAN

APPENDICES:

Appendix 1 - Statement of Community Involvement 2023 with tracked changes from 2018 SCI.