

# **AGENDA ITEM 17: APPENDIX L**

## **WAVERLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**EXECUTIVE – 04/02/2014**

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### **Title:**

#### **DRAFT REVISED STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT FOR PLANNING**

**[Portfolio Holder: Cllr Brian Adams]**

**[Wards Affected: All]**

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### **Summary and purpose:**

The Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) explains how the Council will enable residents and other stakeholders to be involved in the preparation of local plan documents and planning applications.

This report seeks approval for public consultation on a draft revised SCI to replace the current document which was adopted in 2006.

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### **How this report relates to the Council's Corporate Priorities:**

Understanding our residents' needs – the report outlines the ways in which the Planning Service will consult with residents and other stakeholders in order to allow them to be involved in shaping planning policies for the future development of the borough, and how they will be consulted on planning applications. It also explains the stages at which they can become involved and how we treat their responses to consultations and applications.

### **Financial Implications:**

There will be costs associated with consultation and these will vary depending on the scope and nature of the consultation.

### **Legal Implications:**

The Statement of Community Involvement must comply with the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 and the Localism Act 2011.

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### **Background**

1. Every Local Planning Authority is required to produce a Statement of Community Involvement, in order to explain how the Council will enable residents and other stakeholders to be involved in the preparation of local plan documents and planning applications. It sets out the standards to be met by the Authority, building upon the requirements set out in the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.

2. The Council adopted its current Statement in 2006. Since adoption, a number of changes to legislation mean that it no longer reflects the consultation and engagement activities that the Council are currently required to fulfil. In particular the changes to legislation and policy on community involvement have placed a greater emphasis on early engagement within the plan making process and reduce the number of formal stages that councils are required to undertake when developing planning policy. This enables councils to have far more flexibility in the way they engage with different communities and seek to ensure their concerns are addressed as early as possible in the plan making process.
3. This commitment to early engagement is promoted by the Government through its Localism agenda and is embedded in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). In particular paragraph 155 of the Framework states that when developing local plans 'Early and meaningful engagement and collaboration with neighbourhoods, local organisations and business is essential'.
4. This report seeks approval to consult Waverley's residents and other stakeholders on the draft revised Statement of Community involvement for a six-week period ending on 21 March 2014. All responses will be taken into account prior to a final version of the Statement being considered for adoption by the Council as soon as is practical after the close of the consultation. This is dependent on the nature and extent of responses and the consequent scale of changes necessary.
5. Annexe 1 comprises a copy of the draft revised Statement of Community Involvement for both Planning Policy documents and for Planning Applications.

### **Recommendation**

It is recommended that approval be given to consult on the revised Statement of Community of Involvement for a period of six weeks.

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### **Background Papers**

There are no background papers (as defined by Section 100D(5) of the Local Government Act 1972) relating to this report.

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