

WAVERLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE

9 JULY 2019

Title:

REVISED STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT FOR PLANNING

**[Portfolio Holder: Cllr MacLeod]
[Wards Affected: All]**

Summary and purpose:

The Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) explains how the Council will consult and interact with residents and stakeholders with regards the preparation of local plan documents and planning applications. It requires updating every five years.

The current SCI expires in August 2019. This report recommends that this revised SCI is recommended to Full Council for adoption.

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

The Statement of Community Involvement provides the framework for consulting with our residents in relation to all planning matters. It details how residents and other stakeholders can be involved in shaping future development within Waverley and also commenting on planning applications

Equality and Diversity Implications:

An Equalities Impact Assessment has been carried out to ensure that the SCI is inclusive.

Financial Implications:

Costs and resource implications of the new SCI will be met by current approved budgets and resources.

Legal Implications:

The Council is required to produce a Statement of Community Involvement as set out in the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. Regulation 10A of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 provides that in respect of a statement of community involvement, the review must be completed every five years starting with the date of adoption of the statement of community involvement.

Background

1. Every Local Planning Authority is required to produce a Statement of Community Involvement as set out in the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. This outlines how the Council will enable residents and other stakeholders to become involved in the preparation of local plan documents and the determination of planning applications.
2. Paragraph 16 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) February 2019 states that local plans should:

“be shaped by early, proportionate and effective engagement between plan-makers and communities, local organisations, businesses, infrastructure providers and operators and statutory consultees”. The SCI outlines how this will be undertaken.

3. There is a legal requirement to review the SCI every five years, with the current SCI was adopted by the Council in August 2014 so is due to expire in August 2019.

The proposed SCI

4. Whilst it is necessary to update the current SCI, officers do not consider that there have been any changes in circumstances since 2014, in terms of legislation, policy or guidance, that warrant a more significant change to the SCI. The proposed SCI is, therefore, a “light touch” updated version of the one adopted in August 2014, to ensure that it remains up-to-date. As a result there is very little alteration in the detail of consultation; it reflects changes in legislation, factual updates and new consultation methods reflecting social media innovations. There is no requirement to consult when adopting a new SCI. The updated version of the SCI is attached as Annexe 1 to this report.
5. In relation to planning policy matters, the SCI sets out the range of different consultation and engagement methods that the Council may use. However, it does not seek to prescribe exactly what methods will be used for a given consultation. This is to recognise the fact that there will be a range of different types of planning policy documents that the Council may produce, and these will vary significantly in their size and scope. It is important, therefore, that consultation is effective and proportionate. The SCI recognises this by identifying a range of consultation and engagement methods open to the Council without seeking to prescribe exactly what methods will be used in each case.
6. In relation to planning applications and similar documents, the SCI reflects established practices in terms of consultation and engagement and has been updated to reflect any particular changes since 2014, for example in relation to the types of applications that are made.

Recommendation

That the Executive recommends to the Council that the Revised Statement of Community Involvement 2019 be adopted.

Background Papers

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

CONTACT OFFICER:

Name: Christine Goudie

Telephone: 01483 523191

E-mail: Christine.Goudie@waverley.gov.uk