APPENDIX 1 – Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) Consultation Responses

Please let us know your views on 'Section 1: What is the statement of community involvement?'		
Respondent	**Comments (summarised)**	**WBC Response**
Change of Scene (Pam Robinson)	This looks inclusive and clear.	Comment noted.
NHS Frimley ICB (Lauren Pennington)	This section is clear and I understand how I can get involved.	Comment noted.
South Farnham Residents Association (Mrs Zofia Lovell - Chairman)	There are many long-standing residents' associations that have a great deal of local knowledge. Pre-application discussions prior to the application being lodged would benefit the decision timescale.	Update made to SCI - reference to Residents' Associations has been added to paragraph 11.6
Reside Developments (Andrew Munton)	Proper engagement is needed for those who don't usually engage, such as young families, people and families on housing waiting lists and younger people (as examples). This is easier than ever with digital consultation.	Comment noted. The SCI recognises that there are seldom heard groups in our communities including young people and those on low incomes and sets out that the Council will actively seek to involve these groups in the planning process.
David Howell	Raising awareness of this consultation has been poor.	Notification emails/ letters were sent to those on our database of contacts, and contacts on the recently introduced CommonPlace database were also notified. The consultation was also publicised on our website and social media.

Please let us know your views on 'Section 2: Why is community involvement important?'		
Respondent	**Comments (summarised)**	**WBC Response**
Change of Scene (Pam Robinson)	Clear and a good aspiration	Comment noted.
NHS Frimley ICB (Lauren Pennington)	Our experience is that WBC involve health bodies in the preparation of planning policy documents and invite us to provide views on planning applications.	Comment noted.
James Frankcom	Hard to reach communities living in affordable or council housing need to be contacted and involved.	Comment noted. The SCI recognises that there are seldom heard groups in our communities including those on low incomes and sets out that the Council will actively seek to involve these groups in the planning process.
Reside Developments (Andrew Munton)	This needs to include how you are going to do it, otherwise it is a meaningless statement.	Comment noted. Section 9 of the SCI sets out how the Council will engage with communities at each stage of the Local Plan preparation process. Section 11 sets out how you can be involved in planning applications.
David Howell	Waverley have performed adequately regarding Local Plan consultations. However in respect of other policy documents Waverley's performance is less satisfactory. Concern raised that Waverly Officers fail to consider properly comments made by residents. Concern also raised that Planning officers fail to consider the design of developments adequately and have sought to discourage planning committee members doing so.	Comments noted. Representations, including those in relation to design, are carefully considered in preparing policy documents and assessing planning applications.
Witley & Milford Parish Council (Sarah Nash)	Witley & Milford Parish Council strongly agrees with this statement, it is imperative that WBC engages with the local community and the Parish Council on any	Comments noted. The Council are engaging with the Town and Parish Councils as part of preparing the new Local Plan.

	proposals that might affect the parish and its residents and that real opportunity is given to shape plans from an early stage.	
South Farnham Residents Association (Mrs Zofia Lovell - Chairman)	Should show commitment from Waverley in the text such as “The Government and Waverley as the LPA is committed to……” Should include the following: The recent changes to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) have increased protections for Neighbourhood Plans and recognised the time and effort communities invest in preparing them. Changes to the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 mean that, in future, decisions on planning applications will only be able to depart from plans, including neighbourhood plans, if there are strong reasons to do so.”	Comments noted. Update made to paragraph 2.1 of the SCI to highlight the Council’s commitment to engaging with the Waverley community. The suggested wording regarding the NPPF does not need to be included in the SCI, which is a procedural document and does not deal with neighbourhood plans.
Please let us know your views on 'Section 3: Planning Policy Documents'		
Respondent	**Comments (summarised)**	**WBC Response**
Change of Scene (Pam Robinson)	Problematic that Parish and Town Councils are given the responsibility for creating a plan but are not required to consult. This means it is likely that the voices of marginalised residents are not included.	The SCI does not deal with consultation on neighbourhood plans. This must be undertaken in accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012.
NHS Frimley ICB (Lauren Pennington)	Important for Parish and Town Councils to engage with commissioning health bodies when developing Neighbourhood Plans.	Comment noted. Arrangements for consulting on Neighbourhood Plans are not covered by the SCI.

Farnham Society	Having lots of supplementary documents (SPDs/supplementary plans gets confusing and can create a barrier for community involvement. Support current requirements for the inclusion of affordable housing as a part of new developments. Sites should be allocation in the Local Plan for keyworkers.	Comment noted. The planning reforms will result in most matters being dealt with in the Local Plan, with only a small number of supplementary plans on matters such as design codes. Comment regarding affordable housing doesn't relate to SCI but this issue will be considered in relation to the new Local Plan.
South Farnham Residents Association (Mrs Zofia Lovell – Chairman)	Comments should be considered by officers. A site visit or a desk based decision, would benefit from local knowledge on any site, particularly if the Officer is new to the locality and particularly at the pre planning application stage.	Site visits are carried out in all cases to enable case officers to make their assessment of the proposal and comments submitted are carefully considered. Representations from the Parish and Town Councils and local organisations are helpful in highlighting local issues.
James Frankcom	Too long and complex for ordinary people to comment on.	Comment noted.
Reside Developments (Andrew Munton)	Just a statement with no actions or ideas.	Comment noted.
David Howell	Issue of the number of documents to consider. All documents relating to planning applications should be in one place. The preparation of LPP1 took far too long and caused the Farnham Neighbourhood Plan to be out of date. Concern raised that Waverley officers haven't liaised with Town Councils and have not taken neighbourhood plan policies as seriously as they should.	Documents relating to a current application are stored on the electronic file. These files are accessible through the Council's website. Waverley officers are engaging in the early stages with Town and Parish Councils as part of the preparation of the new Local Plan. The Neighbourhood Plans form part of the statutory development plan against which planning applications are assessed.

Cranleigh Parish Council	The Conservation Area Appraisal is an important document to enhance and preserve the character of the parish. The Council request full consultation on the Conservation Area Appraisal.	Comment noted. The Council will continue to consult on Conservation Area Appraisals.
South Farnham Residents Association (Mrs Zofia Lovell – Chairman)	There are many long standing residents associations that have a great deal of local knowledge. Pre-application discussions prior to the application being lodged would benefit the decision timescale.	Update made to SCI - Reference to Residents' Associations has been added to paragraph 11.6
Please let us know your views on 'Section 4: Who do we consult?'		
Respondent	**Comments (Summarised)**	**Response**
Change of Scene (Pam Robinson)	As a charity who has been providing services to young people with disabilities in Waverley for 15 years now, we have been given no information about this consultation. We are part of a network of third sector organisations and so there is already a vehicle for this information to be shared by Waverley.	Comments noted. Notification letters were sent to those on our database of contacts. Organisations and individuals responding to this consultation will be added to the database and contacted in relation to future consultations on planning policy matters where they have consented to this.
NHS Frimley ICB (Lauren Pennington)	Our experience is that WBC engage appropriately with us as a health body.	Comment noted.
Reside Developments (Andrew Munton)	Unclear what the Council is going do and how. For example, Waverley don't propose (or have) development/agent forums. That alone is missing out on the wider experience there is to share.	The SCI sets out the Council's approach in broad terms. The detailed measures taken will reflect the type/ subject matter of the policy document or planning application. The Council has an Agents' Forum and uses the Surrey Development Forum to engage with a wider audience.
David Howell	Waverley are poor at consultation. Officers see it as a tick-box exercise and dismiss comments made by residents and the groups. More engagement would	Comment noted. The SCI sets out that comments on planning applications are summarised in the Officer report and full consideration is given. In respect of

	result if residents saw their views being acknowledged or incorporated in policy of planning officer reports.	comments on local plan consultations, we will prepare a consultation statement setting out how the comments have been considered.
Witley and Milford Parish Council (Sarah Nash)	The Parish Council will welcome engagement from WBC at every opportunity in the plan making process. The Parish Council have a lot of local knowledge and could make meaningful contributions to help shape the parish and would welcome a more collaborative approach to plan making.	Comment noted. The Council is engaging with Town and Parish Councils as part of the preparation of the new Local Plan and will continue to support the preparation of neighbourhood plans.
Farnham Society	Most younger communities do not read newspapers so reaching out and involving them needs rethinking. Social media must be embraced to advertise the need for community involvement. Eg local Facebook pages.	Comments noted. Social media posts are also used to notify users of consultations.
Please let us know your views on 'Section 5: Waverley's Approach to Consultation on the Local Plan'		
Respondent	**Comments (Summarised)**	**WBC Response**
Change of Scene (Pam Robinson)	Only found out about the consultation on BBC News. Did not see anything on social media.	Comment noted. The Council confirms that notification letters were sent to those on our database of contacts, and contacts on the recently introduced CommonPlace database were also notified. A media release was issued, which was covered by BBC South East. The consultation was also publicised on our website and social media.
South Farnham Residents Association (Mrs Zofia Lovell – Chairman)	There should be more inclusivity at local level when sites come forward for the plan, e.g. Neighbourhood Plans that include site allocations, through discussion with developers and the community.	The Council is engaging with Neighbourhood Planning Groups in relation to the assessment of sites put forward in the Call for Sites. The draft Local Plan will be subject to public consultation in 2025. The SCI encourages developers to consult with the community before submitting planning

		applications which are likely to generate public interest.
David Howell	Notice of this consultation has been poor. Having an introductory page highlighting the questions that would be asked would be of help to residents and local community organisations.	A media release was issued and all organisations and individuals (where consent given) on the Council's local plan database were notified. In addition, notifications were sent to everyone on the CommonPlace database who has expressed an interest in consultations relating to Waverley. Whilst there is no statutory requirement to consult on an SCI, the Council has chosen to inform as many organisations and individuals as possible through its databases. Thank you for the suggestions regarding format which will be considered in relation to future consultations.
Land & Partners (Southern) Limited (Alex Dalton)	This Section should set out the different ways in which the Council will accept comments. The Council should be flexible to different methods of response whether in writing via email or via online portals/programs such as the one used for this consultation. The latter are not accessible to all and sometimes set out a too rigid framework to allow for a full response.	Update made to SCI - text has been added at para 5.4 to cover this.
Mr M A Tettenborn	The objectives are fine, not so sure about achievement.	Comment noted.
Witley & Milford Parish Council	Witley & Milford Parish Council keen to engage early on in the plan making process, particularly in relation to site allocations in order to make meaningful contributions in shaping development in the parish.	The Council is engaging with Town and Parish Councils as part of the early-stage preparation of the new Local Plan.
Farnham Society	In order to make this document readable for members we have had to reformat it so that the questions are asked below the written text of the Consultation	Thank you for your helpful feedback regarding the format. We will be providing downloadable material for future

	document, as a whole, and not on commonplace as it only reveals the questions one by one and not as a whole.	consultations to help to facilitate collaborative responses.
Please let us know your views on 'Section 6: What we do with your comments'		
Respondent	**Comments (Summarised)**	**WBC Response**
Change of Scene (Pam Robinson)	It is clear and comprehensible.	Comment noted.
South Farnham Residents Association (Mrs Zofia Lovell – Chairman)	Areas that are most affected will be those in the four main settlements. The words 'try to' are not necessary and should be the Council 'will' take account. To date Waverley have not kept the database up to date. This should be given a greater priority as some groups have been in existence for many years and were missed on this consultation. Waverley need to encourage Town and Parish Councils to be more involved and pass information on to their local communities and residents' associations.	All views are considered but it is not always possible for them to be reflected in the plans and planning decisions for the reasons given. Officers will discuss this further with SoFRA to ascertain which organisations were missed. The Council is reliant on organisations advising on any change in contact details and would encourage residents' associations to register on our CommonPlace platform to be notified of future consultations.
David Howell	Often the issues raised in comments submitted are overlooked or are not responded to.	Comment noted. The SCI sets out that comments on planning applications are summarised in the Officer report and full consideration is given. In respect of comments on local plan consultations, a consultation statement will be published setting out how the comments have been considered.

Please let us know your views on 'Section 7: How do you find out what difference your comments have made?'		
Respondent	**Comments (Summarised)**	**WBC Response**
Change of scene (Pam Robinson)	This should be shared more widely than just being placed on the Council's website and findings should be shared in a "You said, we did" style	Thank you for your suggestion. We will do this where we can through CommonPlace in respect of representations on planning policy documents.
South Farnham Residents Association (Mrs Zofia Lovell – Chairman)	All of the principles are very commendable, however this consultation via Commonplace was difficult to pass on to local residents to encourage their participation. It was also difficult to have access to pdf document to read in advance in order to comment online hence SOFRA have written this letter as well as responding to the consultation online.	Thank you for your comments. This feedback is helpful. We will be providing downloadable material for future consultations to help to facilitate collaborative responses.
Farnham Society	Cannot yet agree that consultation comments have been taken into consideration as past evidence shows lack of communication on this front.	Comment noted. The SCI sets out that, unfortunately, due to the volume of representations that are received, we do not provide individual responses. However, full consideration is given to comments made on planning applications and comments are summarised in the Officer report. In respect of comments on local plan consultations, a consultation statement is published setting out how comments have been considered. We will also give feedback on consultations undertaken through CommonPlace.

Please let us know your views on 'Section 8: Preparing Local Plans and Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs)'		
Respondent	**Comments (Summarised)**	**WBC Response**
South Farnham Residents Association (Mrs Zofia Lovell – Chairman)	It is essential for para 8.5 that the database is up to date and interested parties of all kinds can be contacted.	Agreed. The Council has sent out notifications, where we have consent, to our database of organisations and individuals that have previously commented on the Local Plan (approximately 1,700) as well as those on the CommonPlace database. The Council is reliant on organisations advising on any change in contact details and would encourage residents' associations to register on our CommonPlace platform to be notified of future consultations.
Reside Developments (Andrew Munton)	There's no reference to speaking to groups about what additional guidance might be needed by users of the planning system.	Comment noted. CommonPlace will be used to share information on the Local Plan process. Other sources of guidance will be sign-posted.
David Howell	disappointed	Comment noted.
Please let us know your views on 'Section 9: Current processes for preparing a Local Plan and Supplementary Planning Documents'		
Respondent	**Comments (Summarised)**	**WBC Response**
Change of Scene (Pam Robinson)	It would be useful to know the timeline, not just the process. The end result will depend entirely on the quality and quantity of responses. You have not advertised this widely enough to get a good response.	The timeline for the preparation of the new Local Plan is set out in the Local Development Scheme: Waverley Borough Council - Local plan timetable (Local Development Scheme) No additional SPDs are currently proposed due to the government's planning reforms.

		The SCI consultation was widely publicised. The quantity of responses reflects that it is a procedural document.
Farnham Society	This document has not made enough reference to where a Neighbourhood Plan has been brought into force the LPA should take its policies and proposals into account when preparing the local plan. So far Farnham's Neighbourhood Plan Review has been held back awaiting information from Waverley BC. It is important for local plans to make appropriate reference to neighbourhood plan policies and proposals and similarly for neighbourhood plans to acknowledge local plan policies that they relate to.	The SCI does not cover neighbourhood plans. The Local Plan sets out the strategic policies that neighbourhood plans must be in general conformity with. The Council is preparing evidence to underpin these policies and will be sharing this with neighbourhood planning groups as soon as possible.
David Howell	Progress appears to be disappointing or communicating progress appears to be disappointing.	Comment noted. The timeline for the preparation of the new Local Plan is set out in the Local Development Scheme: Waverley Borough Council - Local plan timetable (Local Development Scheme)
Land and Partners (Alex Dalton)	It is not clear whether the Local Plan process will include an Issues and Options consultation document and/or a Preferred Options consultation as the Regulation 18 stage. Both are valuable consultation documents to allow early engagement on broad principles.	The timeline for the preparation of the new Local Plan is set out in the Local Development Scheme: Waverley Borough Council - Local plan timetable (Local Development Scheme).This may change if and when the government provides Regulations to implement the reforms to the Local Plan process. The Council is currently focused on preparing a Regulation 18 draft plan as quickly as possible. In advance of that, we will be seeking input on an ongoing

		basis but it is not intended that there will be a specific Issues and Options document.
South Farnham Residents Association (Mrs Zofia Lovell – Chairman)	This document has not made enough reference to where a Neighbourhood Plan has been brought into force the LPA should take its policies and proposals into account when preparing the local plan. So far Farnham's Neighbourhood Plan Review has been held back awaiting information from Waverley BC. It is important for local plans to make appropriate reference to neighbourhood plan policies and proposals and similarly for neighbourhood plans to acknowledge local plan policies that they relate to.	The SCI does not relate to neighbourhood plans. The Council is committed to engaging with Neighbourhood Planning Groups in preparing the Local Plan. The Local Plan sets out the strategic policies that neighbourhood plans must be in general conformity with. The Council is preparing evidence to underpin these policies and will be sharing this with Neighbourhood Planning Groups as soon as possible.
Witley & Milford Parish Council (Sarah Nash)	Witley & Milford Parish Council would request meetings with officers when discussions comments over specific site allocations, before options are published. If the Parish Council does not allocate sites in its review of the Witley Neighbourhood Plan, it would expect to be fully engaged in this process with WBC through the production of the new Local Plan.	The Council is engaging with Town and Parish Councils throughout the preparation of the new Local Plan. Officers will meet with Witley & Milford PC.
Please let us know your views on 'Section 10: What other planning documents can you comment on?'		
Respondent	**Comments (summarised)**	**WBC Response**
Change of Scene (Pam Robinson)	How will the Council decide on who they consult?	The consultation groups are set out in Appendix 1 of the SCI. This includes statutory organisations in the Local Plan process and other consultation bodies.

David Howell	Question of whether it is acceptable to say 'where it is deemed appropriate'	Update made to SCI – additional wording added to say “where it is deemed appropriate in preparing these documents.”
Farnham Society	Brownfield development is greatly preferable to using grade A (potential food producing) agricultural land to build. Questions received on the Farnham Park SANG and the process of how SANG is obtained,	Comment noted. This matter will be addressed through the Local Plan and Neighbourhood Plans rather than the SCI, which is a procedural document. Officers will respond separately to questions in relation to SANG.
Please let us know your views on 'Section 11: How can you be involved in planning applications?'		
Respondent	**Comments (Summarised)**	**WBC Response**
Tice’s Meadow (Mark Elsoffer)	There should be a mechanism to register an interest to be automatically consulted on any planning applications within an Xkm radius of a provided postcode. It's very easy to not find out about a planning application on neighbouring land until it is too late.	Details of notification undertaken for planning applications are set out in Appendix 2 of the SCI. These comply with statutory requirements. The Council will investigate whether it is possible to set up the option of an automatic alert.
Change of Scene (Pam Robinson)	There is no timescale at all given in this process. People pay to seek planning permission, therefore as service users they should be given a clear timeline which should be adhered to by the Council.	Once a planning application has been validated, the Council should make a decision on the proposal as quickly as possible, within the statutory time limit unless a longer period is agreed in writing with the applicant. The statutory time limits for applications for planning permission are set out in article 34 of the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure (England) Order 2015 (as amended).

South Farnham Residents Association (Mrs Zofia Lovell – Chairman)	Concern raised that there is no telephone access to officers. It is essential that pre planning discussions happen at the earliest possible time to enable the process to work to the benefit of all. Waverley should actively promote pre application community involvement at the earliest opportunity with the applicant/developer. The SCI should reflect a more pro-active approach by LPAs to including the community in the pre-app stage, especially if the proposed development involves 10 + dwellings, or is in a sensitive location or in a location not agreed by eg. A Neighbourhood Plan. Also worth considering the need for different processes for public engagement with outline permission applications and full applications? Planning is more than just following Policy blindly and complying with regulations just to achieve an outcome. Earlier community involvement would highlight matters of local knowledge, creating a less adversarial approach. It is worth noting that there are occasions when applicants amend an application following a consultation response they have read online. Question raised of how amendments after submission affect the decision date.	Comments noted. Some of the issues raised relate to operational matters rather than the content of the SCI. Officers will liaise with SoFRA to discuss these matters in more detail. The SCI encourages pre application discussions with the local community. Applications are determined in accordance with the most up to date plans.

Reside Developments (Andrew Munton)	There needs to be a change in the length of time applicants get to speak at committees. The number of objectors and councillors allowed to speak is at odds with what the applicant is allowed. A forum or similar to engage with councillors would also be a useful tool.	Comments noted. The Council's scheme for public speaking is subject to a separate policy and sits outside the scope of the SCI.
David Howell	Some links fail to work. More detail could be provided on the process of public speaking and the determination of applications in respect of numbers and dates responses are received. Officers fail to notify neighbours and residents of changes to the applicant's proposals in some cases, and some statutory consultees. Concern raised that availability to communicate with case officers is poor, Officers have failed to complete site notes when visiting applications sites, site visits have been cursory, completed in minutes, a photo here a photo there. Requests for officers to view the impact of proposals on a neighbouring property are ignored. Appendix 1 fails to record that South East Water provides water to the Farnham area. Concern raised regarding ward councillors being unable to vote at committee where the application is within their ward. Pre App consultant advice should be published with the application.	Thank you for alerting us to this. Links have been checked and updated. The Council's scheme for public speaking is subject to a separate policy and sits outside the scope of the SCI. Officers do visit neighbouring properties when requested to do so. Update made to SCI - South East Water added to list of consultees in Appendix 1. Pre-application advice is currently not published but this will be considered when the Pre-Application charging process is reviewed.

Farnham Society	Concern raised that there is no telephone access to officers. Waverley should actively promote pre application community involvement at the earliest opportunity with the applicant/developer. The SCI should reflect a more pro-active approach by LPAs to including the community in the pre-app stage, especially if the proposed development involves 10 + dwellings, or is in a sensitive location or in a location not agreed by eg. A Neighbourhood Plan. Also worth considering the need for different processes for public engagement with outline permission applications and full applications? There are occasions when applicants amend an application following a consultation response they have read online. Question raised of how amendments after submission affect the decision date. WBC software for planning applications is very user unfriendly and has been for years now. This results in difficulty of viewing applications for the public when compared to the software being used by East Hants or Guildford. The recent changes made for the Planning committees has been a retrograde step away from community involvement.	Comments noted. Some of the issues raised relate to operational matters rather than the content of the SCI. Officers will liaise with the Farnham Society to discuss these matters in more detail. The SCI encourages developers to consult with the community before submitting planning applications which are likely to generate public interest.
Farnham Town Council	Although the Towns and Parish are consulted on planning applications, Planning Officers must ensure that where clarification is sought, points are addressed or communicated to Applicants/Agents and back to	Comments noted.

	Towns and Parishes. Farnham Town Council has seen improvement in communication recently.	
Please let us know your views on 'Section 12: Planning Enforcement' (Summarised)		
Respondent	**Comments (Summarised)**	**Response**
Tice's Meadow (Mark Elsoffer)	Past experience has shown Waverley's planning enforcement is ineffective.	Planning enforcement powers can only be used where it is necessary in the public interest. Alleged breaches of planning control will be individually assessed on their planning merits and enforcement action will be taken where it is expedient to do so. Councils must act in a proportionate manner. The Local Planning Enforcement Plan sets out the Council's local policy relating to enforcement: Waverley Borough Council - Local Planning Enforcement Plan
South Farnham Residents Association (Mrs Zofia Lovell – Chairman)	Planning Enforcement to date at Waverley has been poor mainly due to lack of staff. It is hoped that will improve and needs to be addressed.	Comments noted.
David Howell	The enforcement team seem bias towards getting breaches authorised rather than preventing them or having them taken down	Planning enforcement powers can only be used where it is necessary in the public interest. Alleged breaches of planning control will be individually assessed on their planning merits and enforcement action will be taken where it is expedient to do so. Councils must act in a proportionate manner. The Local Planning Enforcement Plan sets out the Council's local policy relating to enforcement: Waverley Borough Council - Local Planning Enforcement Plan

Farnham Society	Breaches in the conservation area of Farnham have come into the category of breaches ‘cause no material harm’. Recognise some breaches might be considered ‘minor issues’ but concern raised that this may set a precedent in future. Concern raised about large scale breaches within the Brightwell development.	These comments relate to the matters outside the SCI. The Council must act in a proportionate manner. The Local Planning Enforcement Plan sets defines the appropriate form of response to various breaches of planning control: Waverley Borough Council - Local Planning Enforcement Plan.
Please let us know your views on 'Section 13: How well are we doing?'		
Respondent	**Comments (Summarised)**	**WBC Response**
Change of Scene (Pam Robinson)	Concern raised that no notification was received relating to planning application next door. Change of Scene are a charity using the land to provide a service to Surrey children and young people.	Comments noted. This relates to a specific application rather than the SCI itself.
David Howell	in a word 'poorly', or in two words 'very poorly' to be honest.	Comments noted.
Farnham Society	This has not been a resource efficient way of consultation as it is not designed for collaborative civic communities, which only allows for one individual to fill out the survey under the umbrella of one individual email account. The length of this consultation has also put many people off and been difficult to engage or interest members of the community.	Comments noted. We will be providing downloadable material for future consultations to help to facilitate collaborative responses. We value feedback regarding this consultation and will be taking comments on board for future engagement.
South Farnham Residents Association	Concern raised about lack of continuity of staffing and lack of communication with Officers.	Comments noted. These comments relate to operational matters outside the SCI.

Please let us know your view on 'Appendix 1: Consultation Groups Involved in Local Plan production'		
Respondent	**Comments (Summarised)**	**WBC Response**
Tice's Meadow (Mark Elsoffer)	As a community volunteering group who manage a nature reserve, we rarely get consulted on planning applications adjacent to the nature reserve.	Comments noted.
Change of Scene (Pam Robinson)	Consultation with charities and other voluntary sector organisations does not seem to happen.	Consultation is set out in the SCI. Organisations are encouraged to register on our CommonPlace platform to be notified of future consultations.
NHS Frimley ICB (Lauren Pennington)	Please note that North East Hampshire and Farnham Clinical Commissioning Group has been replaced by NHS Frimley Integrated Care Board	Update made to SCI - list in Appendix 1 has been updated to include NHS Frimley Integrated Care Board.
South Farnham Residents Association (Mrs Zofia Lovell – Chairman)	Communication with community groups and residents associations must improve. Officers need to seek local information to assist in the appropriate decision making process.	Update made to SCI – reference to Resident's Associations has been added to the SCI.
Badshot Lea Community Association (Cliff Watts)	The list above is very comprehensive. The method of communicating with the Other Consultees could be better.	Comments noted.
Reside Developments (Andrew Munton)	Concern that applicants/developers are listed at the end.	WBC confirms that the list of other consultees is not in priority order.
David Howell	East Surrey Water missing.	Update made to SCI – South East Water added to list of consultation bodies.
Farnham Society	Please include The Farnham Society on Consultations	WBC confirms that the Farnham Society is on our consultation database.

Janette Gallini	Concern raised that South East water is not listed as a statutory consultee.	Update to SCI – South East Water has been added to the list.
Please let us know your views on 'Appendix 2: Details of notification undertaken for planning applications'		
Respondent	**Comments (summarised)**	**WBC Response**
Change of Scene (Pam Robinson)	I don't think these are adhered to	Comments noted.
South Farnham Residents Association (Mrs Zofia Lovell – Chairman)	Pre application discussion including Officers, Applicants and local community groups will improve the outcome for all parties.	Comments noted. Paragraph 11.6 of the SCI encourages early discussions with the local community and relevant organisations and groups.
Southern Water (Charlotte Mayall)	Southern Water is pleased to note that relevant infrastructure providers will be consulted on major development and applications requiring EIA. We would also wish to be consulted on any major development application that is a departure from the local plan, in order for us to plan for any capacity upgrades that might be needed should the application gain consent.	Comments noted.
Badshot Lea Community Association (Cliff Watts)	The notification process for planning applications is okay. Notification at the pre app stage would be a very welcome improvement for local community consultation.	The SCI sets out that applicants or developers are encouraged to consult with the community before submitting planning applications which are likely to generate public interest.
David Howell	helpful	Comment noted
Farnham Society	We receive a weekly Planning application list	Comment noted
Do you have any other comments to make on the Statement of Community Involvement 2024 Update?		

Respondent	Comments (Summarised)	WBC Response
Change of Scene (Pam Robinson)	I am concerned that you have not made every attempt to include those residents who are marginalised or have fewer resources.	Comment noted. The SCI sets out that the Council will continue to promote social inclusion by actively seeking to involve 'seldom heard' groups in the planning process.
NHS Frimley ICB (Lauren Pennington)	Understanding the impact on healthcare providers of additional population growth should be a stronger element of the Local Plan.	Comment noted. The Council will engage with healthcare providers in preparing the Local Plan and the Infrastructure Delivery Plan.
Munstead and Tuesley Parish Council	Can the identity of those commenting on planning applications be kept confidential? This will encourage wider community involvement.	Representations on planning applications cannot be made anonymously but details can be found here of how to submit comments without names and addresses being displayed online: Waverley Borough Council - How to comment on a planning application.
South Farnham Residents Association (Mrs Zofia Lovell – Chairman)	Consultation process online has been inadequate as it was too much to read in one go and difficult to manage when making comments online.	Comment noted. The Council will be providing downloadable material for future consultations.
James Frankcom	Asking ordinary people to comment on these very lengthy pages is unreasonable and a more intelligent way of doing this needs to be found.	Comment noted. The Council will be providing downloadable material for future consultations. CommonPlace will be used to provide simplified information on the Local Plan and provide an easy way to give feedback. However, formal representations on the Local Plan will need to be made on the full document. The Council will try to make this as succinct as possible.

Badshot Lea Community Association (Cliff Watts)	Encourage officers and applicants to engage with community groups at the earliest possible time ie at the pre application stage.	Comment noted. Paragraph 11.6 of the SCI encourages early discussions with the local community and relevant organisations and groups.
David Howell	disappointing	Comment noted
Farnham Society	Too long for community involvement	Comment noted. The Council will be providing downloadable material for future consultations.
Elmbridge Borough Council	Elmbridge Borough Council have no comments to make at this time	Noted
Farnham Town Council	Farnham Town Council values the involvement of the community in decision making in Farnham and Waverley as a whole. With regard to the use of CommonPlace as a consultation tool, it is vital to include evidence and other documents as PDFs to enable those responding to consultations to review outside of the limited 'window' within CommonPlace.	Comment noted. The Council will be providing downloadable pdfs for future consultations.
Historic England	The consultation process detailed in the SCI should be adequate in meeting the requirements of the Local Development Regulations 2004. It will be important to ensure that stakeholder organisations with interests and responsibilities in the historic environment, at national and local levels, are fully involved throughout the consultation process.	Comments noted
National Highways	Highways England has been appointed by the Secretary of State for Transport as strategic highway company under the provisions of the Infrastructure Act	Noted

	2015 and is the highway authority, traffic authority and street authority for the strategic road network (SRN). Reviewed this consultation and its supporting documentation and have 'No Comments'	
Natural England	Supportive of the principle of meaningful and early engagement of the general community, community organisations and statutory bodies in local planning matters, both in terms of shaping policy and participating in the process of determining planning applications. Unable to comment, in detail, on individual Statements of Community Involvement.	Noted
Rushmoor Borough Council	We have no comments to make at this time, but please continue to notify us of future consultations.	Noted
South Downs National Park	Supportive of WBC's continuing liaison with neighbouring authorities, including the SDNPA, to ensure that cross-boundary strategic priorities are fully addressed. Recommend additional text is included under "Duty to Cooperate" to recognise the need for a joint approach with the SDNPA, with regard to development and change within the setting of the SDNP, and reference to the South Downs PMP.	Update made to SCI – neighbouring local authorities are duty to co-operate bodies.
Surrey County Council	We do not have any comments to make on the SCI.	Noted
CPRE	No comments on the SCI which seems to encompass the relevant procedural issues.	Noted
L.S. Dadek	Representation received raising a number of points about planning in rural areas.	Representation doesn't relate to SCI but respondent will be consulted on future Local Plan consultations.

Anonymous comment summaries (16 received):

Consultation on the SCI was the first time that CommonPlace had been used by the Council. The initial CommonPlace set-up allowed respondents to leave comments with only their email address. Despite rectifying this quickly and contacting respondents for missing detail of name or organisation, 16 of the responses remain anonymous. As this is a non-statutory consultation, these responses have been considered in finalising the SCI. The CommonPlace site has been revised to make it clear that contact details need to be provided when submitting formal representations on planning policy documents.

Anonymous representations are summarised below. Most points are already covered in the table above. Additional points relating to the SCI are as follows:

There should be local referendums on all planning matters.	The planning system operates according to national legislation. The Council will have regard to local views, including those expressed through surveys undertaken on CommonPlace. However, decisions must be based on material planning considerations rather than the volume of representations. At present, only the preparation of neighbourhood plans involves a referendum. Neighbourhood plans are not covered by this SCI.
Statutory consultees include Surrey Access Forum for any planning that affects public recreation, the open spaces society for common land and Village Greens and for highways the Ramblers, Cycling uk and the British horse society.	These are not statutory planning consultees, but some are already on the Local Plan database (they come under 'other consultees' referred to in the SCI). The remaining organisations will be added if contact details are publicly available.
There are very few wildlife conservation organisations consulted at present, which are important to help avoid focusing only on the limited scope of Biodiversity Net Gain - please add more such organisations, e.g. Surrey Wildlife Trust, Swifts Local Network, House Martin Conservation, RSPB etc.	

It is important to consult with key cultural and faith institutions, such as the Waverley Abbey Trust in addressing the cultural and faith needs of the Borough. Specific discussion over improving the role of Waverley Abbey for the community is requested.	The Waverley Abbey Trust will be added to the Local Plan database.
Should publish planning applications in the local paper.	Weekly lists are available on the Council's website and are provided to the local newspapers, who generally choose to publish them.

Please let us know your views on 'Section 1: What is the statement of community involvement?'

- The document is too long.
- There should be local referendums on all planning matters.
- Concern raised that the public are not really involved and views not really considered.
- No mention of Surrey County Access Forum which is the statutory consultee on public recreation.
- Raising awareness of this consultation has been poor.
- Genuine community involvement is very necessary.
- It is intended to give residents/council tax payers an earlier and better voice in future developments.

Please let us know your views on 'Section 2: Why is community involvement important?'

- Referendum for all planning decisions.
- Importance of engaging with young people.
- Concern raised that local and individual input can be circumvented by applicants appealing to higher authorities who don't take local opinion into consideration.

Please let us know your views on 'Section 3: Planning Policy Documents'

- The document is too long and complex. Question of how many people will read it.
- Question raised of whether the SCI will be adhered to.

- There is no pre advice engagement with statutory consultees in public recreation.

Please let us know your views on ‘Section 4: Who do we consult?’

- Residents of the area should be consulted.
- Importance of considering input from Healthcare, Environment Agency, local schools, and highways.
- Pleased to see recognition of the hard to reach and under-represented groups and individuals.
- Statutory consultees include Surrey Access Forum for any planning that affects public recreation, the open spaces society for common land and Village Greens and for highways the Ramblers, Cycling uk and the British horse society.
- Importance of engaging with young people.
- It seems to cover all bases.

Please let us know your views on 'Section 5: Waverley’s Approach to Consultation on the Local Plan'

- The document is too long and not clear and jargon free.
- There is a need for improved communication to alert members of the community to consultations.
- Consultation should be via a local referendum on all local issues.
- Present protocols and procedures do not meet the requirements for public consultation.
- Only heard about the consultation on BBC News.
- Makes sense.
- Could be improved with more on the 'how' - most people are not regularly in touch, and we could do better with locally convened events and communications.

Please let us know your views on 'Section 6: What we do with your comments'

- There will always be both relevant and irrelevant comments made.
- Local voters should have decision making.
- Concern raised that objections are not considered.
- Makes sense.

Please let us know your views on 'Section 7: How do you find out what difference your comments have made?'

- Concern raised that this won't be adhered to.
- Voters will have full veto power via a referendum.
- Document should also be sent electronically to all who had commented.
- It will be crucial to alert subscribers to new website publications on this topic.

Please let us know your views on 'Section 8: Preparing Local Plans and Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs)'

- Concern raised about the cost of consultations and the lack of practical effects for the local community.
- Only local views of the voters should be considered by referendum.
- Concern raised that objections are dismissed by the Council.
- Concern raised about the influence of central government on local matters.

Please let us know your views on 'Section 9: Current processes for preparing a Local Plan and Supplementary Planning Documents'

- The document is too long and complex.
- Concern raised about the Local Plan and more growth.
- Planning applications should be published in the local paper.
- Importance of the final plan being adhered to.
- Concern raised about legal challenges being dismissed and the lack of engagement on matters relating to SANGs and public open space.

Please let us know your views on 'Section 10: What other planning documents can you comment on?'

- Concern raised that the SCI won't make a difference.

- Local referendums on planning decisions
- Question raised of who deems the engagement appropriate.
- Concern raised that WBC has not undertaken meaningful engagement.
- Good idea.

Please let us know your views on 'Section 11: How can you be involved in planning applications?'

- Final veto power via a local referendum for all planning applications.
- Concern raised that, as a resident, you have to work hard to find what is going on regarding planning and developments.
- Planning requests should be printed in the local paper.
- The Planning Officer should be better supported when an applicant appeals to a higher authority and more weight should be given to the Planning Officer's decision/ objection and local interest should prevail.
- Concern raised that WBC does not consider material or significant considerations relating to public recreation, including commons and village greens, and highway statutory consultees for rights of way and SANGs.

Please let us know your views on 'Section 12: Planning Enforcement'

- Local referendum on all planning infringements.
- Concern raised about the effectiveness of the process.
- Appears to be transparent.

Please let us know your views on 'Section 13: How well are we doing?'

- Mandatory local referendum on all council decisions.
- The Council doesn’t have much choice.

Please let us know your view on 'Appendix 1: Consultation Groups Involved in Local Plan production'

- The local voters should have final veto powers via a referendum.
- The list of people is relevant and correct, however they are underfunded and views not considered.

- Question raised of whether lists are in order of the weight of consideration given.
- Surrey County Access Forum not mentioned which is the statutory consultee for public recreation and highway statutory consultees such as the Ramblers, Cycling UK and the British Horse Society
- There are very few wildlife conservation organisations consulted at present, which are important to help avoid focusing only on the limited scope of Biodiversity Net Gain - please add more such organisations, e.g. Surrey Wildlife Trust, Swifts Local Network, House Martin Conservation, RSPB etc.
- Seems a sensible list.

Please let us know your views on 'Appendix 2: Details of notification undertaken for planning applications'

- The planning department should keep to its statutory timescales.
- Concern raised that objections don't make a difference.
- All notifications to be via email to all registered voters and online voting portal for all referendums.
- Concern raised regarding applications that are departures from the Local Plan.
- Applications or pre planning engagement involving public open space or rights of way must be sent to all the relevant statutory consultees at the earliest moment
- Notifications should be posted on the website and Commonplace.

Do you have any other comments to make on the Statement of Community Involvement 2024 Update?

- Local voter veto power on all decisions by the council.
- A written response is needed to the issues raised.
- More effort must be spent in giving residents support and resident's views should be taken on board.
- The document is long and contains lots of exceptions and is open to interpretation.
- It is important to consult with key cultural and faith institutions, such as the Waverley Abbey Trust in addressing the cultural and faith needs of the Borough.