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Item

REVIEW OF STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT FOLLOWING PUBLICATION OF THE NEW NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING LEGISLATION

To:

Councillor Kevin Blencowe, Executive Councillor for Planning Policy and Transport
Planning & Transport Scrutiny Committee 26/06/2018

Report by:

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Wards affected:

Abbey, Arbury, Castle, Cherry Hinton, Coleridge, East Chesterton, King's Hedges, Market, Newnham, Petersfield, Queen Edith's, Romsey, Trumpington, West Chesterton

Key Decision

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 Each Local Planning Authority has a duty to prepare and maintain a Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) setting out how they will involve and consult with the public and wider stakeholders in respect of both planning applications and planning policy matters.
- 1.2 The Neighbourhood Planning Act (2017) brings into effect a requirement to review and update any SCI that is more than 5 years old, and with a particular requirement to include specific information around the support that is available for Neighbourhood Plan preparation. This comes into force on 31 July 2018. The SCDC SCI was adopted in 2010 and the Cambridge SCI in 2013, and neither make substantive reference to neighbourhood planning support. This partial update of the SCI sets out the support available for Neighbourhood Plan preparation.

- 1.3 As part of the harmonisation of relevant planning procedures across the Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service and in preparation for future work on a new Joint Local Plan for Greater Cambridge, a joint SCI will be prepared for agreement by both Councils later this year.
- 1.4 Appendix 1 sets out the proposed addendum to the adopted SCI. Appendix 2 contains the proposed Neighbourhood Planning support offer which will be published on the Cambridge City Council website.

2. Recommendations

The Executive Councillor is recommended to:

- (1) Agree the addendum to the Statement of Community Involvement 2013 attached as Appendix 1 to this report.
- (2) Agree the Neighbourhood Planning support offer contained within Appendix 2 if this report.

3. Background

- 3.1 Local planning authorities are required to produce a Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) which sets out how they will involve and consult with the public and wider stakeholders in respect of both planning applications and planning policy matters. The duty to prepare an SCI is set out in the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2004/5/section/18>
- 3.2 A number of changes have been introduced to planning through the Neighbourhood Planning Act 2017, and some of these relate to the review and content of a Statement of Community Involvement.
- 3.3 Requirement for a Five Year Review: The first of these changes came into force on 6 April 2018 and amends The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2017. This regulation relates to the review of local development documents and sets out the following:

“Review of local development documents
10A.—(1) A local planning authority must review a local development document within the following time periods—

 - (a) in respect of a local plan, the review must be completed every five years, starting from the date of adoption of the local plan, in accordance with section 23 of the Act (adoption of local development documents);
 - (b) in respect of a statement of community involvement, the review must be completed every five years, starting from the date of adoption of the statement of community involvement, in accordance with section 23 of the Act.”.

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2017/1244/made?view=plain>
- 3.4 This new regulation has implications for both the SCIs for Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire Councils. As SCDC’s SCI was adopted in 2010 there is now a

requirement to review this as it is over five years old. Cambridge's SCI is just within the time frame but should also be reviewed imminently to meet the requirement of the new regulations. It is the intention of the Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service to prepare a joint SCI and therefore it is timely that regulations have highlighted the need for regular reviews of SCIs.

- 3.5 A report will be brought for agreement by both Councils in late 2018/early 2019 with a revised SCI to cover the Greater Cambridge area as part of taking forward work relating to the preparation of the Joint Local Plan.
- 3.6 Requirement for the SCI to mention neighbourhood planning: This comes into force on 31 July 2018 from the Neighbourhood Planning Act 2017 and requires a local planning authority to “set out their policy for discharging the duty to give advice or assistance to qualifying bodies to facilitate proposals for neighbourhood development plans (including proposals for the modification of neighbourhood development plans) or orders.”¹
- 3.7 A partial update of the both SCDC and Cambridge SCIs is required by 31 July 2018 in order to meet this stipulation, as the proposed new joint SCI will not be prepared before this deadline in July.
- 3.8 Appendix 1 contains a short addendum to the SCI, which will direct readers to the Cambridge website to view the support offer available to the preparation of Neighbourhood Plans in Cambridge.
- 3.9 The proposed Support Offer for Cambridge is included as Appendix 2 to this report. This offer also outlines the recent additional support that is made available to those preparing Neighbourhood Plans by Locality.

4. Implications

(a) Financial Implications

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Support for Neighbourhood Planning is contained within the existing financial resource of the Greater Cambridge Shared Service Planning Policy team.

(b) Staffing Implications

Support for Neighbourhood Planning is contained within the existing staffing resource of the Greater Cambridge Shared Service Planning Policy team.

(c) Equality and Poverty Implications

None

(d) Environmental Implications

¹ **Neighbourhood Planning Act 2017 (Commencement No 3) – Regulations 2018**

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2018/38/pdfs/ukxi_20180038_en.pdf - Regulation 4(a) brings into force section 6 of the Act. Section 6 amends section 18 of the 2004 Act.

None

(e) Procurement Implications

None

(f) Community Safety Implications

None

5. Consultation and communication considerations

None

6. Background papers

Neighbourhood Planning Act 2017 -

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2017/20/contents/enacted>

7. Appendices

Appendix 1: Proposed addendum to Cambridge Statement of Community Involvement

Appendix 2: Draft Support Offer for Cambridge City Council.

8. Inspection of papers

To inspect the background papers or if you have a query on the report please contact

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