

Item

STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT



To: Councillor Kevin Blencowe, Executive Councillor for Planning Policy and Transport Planning & Transport Scrutiny Committee 15 January 2019

Report by:

Stephen Kelly, Joint Director for Planning and Economic Development
Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire

Tel: 01223 - 457009 Email: stephen.kelly@cambridge.gov.uk

Wards affected: All

Key Decision

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report presents the draft SCI for consultation purposes, identifying the points at which there will be an opportunity for communities and stakeholders to get involved in the various parts of the planning process. There is no mandatory requirement for consultation, but it is recommended that the draft SCI is made available for comment to ensure that the needs and aspirations of communities and stakeholders are understood and taken into account in finalising the document.

2. Recommendations

The Executive Councillor is recommended to agree:

1. The draft Statement of Community Involvement (attached at Appendix 1) for consultation purposes;
2. The consultation period will take place for six weeks between Monday 4 February and Monday 18 March 2019;
3. The Joint Director of Planning and Economic Development is granted delegated authority, in liaison with the Executive Councillor for Planning Policy and Transport, and the Chair and Spokes for the Planning Policy and Transport Scrutiny Committee, to make any editing changes prior to publication.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004) introduced the requirement for local authorities to prepare a Statement of Community Involvement, and new regulations came into force on 6 April 2018 which require that SCIs must be reviewed at least every five years from the date of adoption. The current Cambridge City SCI was adopted in November 2013 and the SCI for South Cambridgeshire District Council was adopted in 2010. Short addenda to both documents were adopted during 2018, setting out the approach of both Councils to providing support to Neighbourhood Forums (Parish Councils within South Cambridgeshire) that are preparing Neighbourhood Plans.
- 3.2 The SCI sets out how the public will have an opportunity to engage in the planning process in Greater Cambridge. The SCI describes how the public, businesses, interest groups and individuals within the local authority areas can get involved in the creation of local planning policy and the planning application process aiming at shaping where we live, work and trade.
- 3.3 The draft SCI gives an introduction to the overall planning process, and then moves into detail about how stakeholders can get involved in the preparation of plans including Local Plans (which includes Area Action Plans), Supplementary Planning Documents and Neighbourhood Plans. A further section identifies the mechanisms by which stakeholders will be provided an opportunity to engage in the planning application process. Finally, an overview of the process of preparing a Neighbourhood Plan or Order is provided, followed by the broad support available to community groups that are preparing such documents.
- 3.4 The SCI is drafted to reflect the requirements of planning regulations, and provides examples where the Local Planning Authorities (LPA) may, if resources permit, use methods of engagement that move beyond the regulatory requirements. It is important that the SCI does not commit the LPAs to actions that cannot be resourced in all cases, as this could then call into jeopardy decisions and actions taken. This does not, however, preclude the Council from choosing to use additional mechanisms to increase community engagement as and when it is considered appropriate to do so.
- 3.5 There is no mandatory requirement for consultation on a draft SCI however, in the spirit of ensuring meaningful engagement in the

planning process, it is proposed that a consultation period is undertaken for six weeks from Monday 4 February to Monday 18 March 2019. The consultation period will be carried out in accordance with the requirements for Supplementary Planning Documents (see table 2 of the draft document attached at Appendix 1), drawing largely on electronic communication and engagement methods as is appropriate to a document of this nature. Representations received will be considered, with any subsequent amendments identified. A summary of these representations and the responses made, in addition to the final version of the SCI will be brought back to Members for adoption in due course.

4. Implications

(a) Financial Implications

The preparation of the SCI for Greater Cambridge, and the recommended consultation period is within existing budgets.

(b) Staffing Implications

The preparation of the SCI for Greater Cambridge, and the recommended consultation period is within existing budgets.

(c) Equality and Poverty Implications

Consultation on planning matters will be undertaken in accordance with Equality legislation as appropriate.

(d) Environmental Implications

None

(e) Procurement Implications

None

(f) Community Safety Implications

None

5. Consultation and communication considerations

None

6. Background papers

No background papers were used in the preparation of this report.

7. Appendices

Appendix A: Greater Cambridge Statement of Community Involvement (2019)
DRAFT FOR CONSULTATION

8. Inspection of papers

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

Amanda Thorn, Principal Planning Policy Officer, Greater Cambridge Shared Planning

tel: 01223 457183 email: Amanda.Thorn@cambridge.gov.uk