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**To: Communities and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Board (4)    Date: 18<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

**Subject: Draft Statement of Community Involvement**

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## **1    Purpose of the Note**

- 1.1 To brief the Communities and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Board (4) on the current position in relation to the draft Statement of Community involvement (SCI) (Appendix A Draft Statement of Community Involvement – Cabinet Member Report with Appendix 1)

## **2    Recommendations**

- 2.1 The Communities and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Board (4) are recommended to:
- 1) Note the content of the report
  - 2) Identify any comments on the draft document as part of the consultation
  - 3) Identify any recommendations for the appropriate Cabinet Member

## **3    Information/Background**

- 3.1 The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (Section 18) requires Local Planning Authorities to produce a Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) which explains how they will engage communities and other interested parties in producing their Local Plan and determining planning applications.
- 3.2 The current SCI was adopted in 2012 and requires updating to ensure that it reflects current planning practice and guidance and provides resilience to enable consultation and engagement to adapt to exceptional and unforeseen circumstances as highlighted by the current Covid-19 pandemic.
- 3.3 The planning process has to comply with a variety of legal procedures in terms of public consultation and engagement. The SCI sets out how the Council will address these and how the public can expect to be engaged and kept informed. It also sets out local standards for consultation and engagement. This applies to both Planning Policy, setting out how the process will be undertaken when preparing new or revised policy documents, and to Development Management in relation to the planning applications process.
- 3.4 There is no legal requirement to consult on the review of an SCI, however Coventry City Council considers it is good practice to do so. The Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities gave authority to consult at his meeting of 12<sup>th</sup> February 2021. The SCI is being consulted on for a period of six weeks, running from Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February to Monday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2021. Due to Covid-19 restrictions this consultation is being publicised on the Council's website, via its social media channels, via press release, via raising awareness with local partnerships, organisations and community interest groups and by

direct email to those individuals and organisations who have requested to be included on the planning consultation database.

- 3.5 Responses will be analysed and the SCI amended accordingly, before reporting to Cabinet for final adoption.

Appendix A - Appendix A Draft Statement of Community Involvement – Cabinet Member Report with Appendix 1

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