
Cabinet

13th July 2021

Name of Cabinet Member:

Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities – Councillor D Welsh

Director Approving Submission of the report:

Director of Streetscene and Regulatory Services

Ward(s) affected:

All

Title:

Statement of Community Involvement

Is this a key decision?

No -

Although the matters within the report affect all wards in the city, it is not anticipated that the impact will be significant

Executive Summary:

This report seeks approval to adopt the revised Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) attached at Appendix 1 to the report.

The SCI is required by law. It sets out how the Council will engage communities and other interested parties in the planning process. It must be kept up to date and must be published on the Council's website.

The current adopted SCI was produced in 2012 and needs updating to reflect more recent changes in the planning system. A new SCI has been produced accordingly. Whilst there is no legal requirement to consult on an SCI, it is considered good practice to do so, and public consultation was undertaken for a period of six weeks from 15th February to 29th March 2021.

The responses have been analysed and the SCI has been amended accordingly. Appendix 2 to the report contains the schedule of summarised comments received and the officers' responses to each including any changes made to the SCI as a result.

Recommendation:

The Cabinet is requested to:

- 1) Adopt the Statement of Community Involvement attached at Appendix 1 to the report.

List of Appendices included:

Appendix 1 – Statement of Community Involvement

Appendix 2 – Summary of consultation responses

Appendix 3 - Briefing Note from Neighbourhood and Communities Scrutiny Board (4)

Background papers:

None

Other useful documents

Statement of Community Involvement Consultation Draft February 2021

Statement of Community Involvement 2012

Has it been or will it be considered by Scrutiny?

The consultation draft was considered by Communities and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Board (4) on 18th March 2021 - the Board endorsed the statement in principle (see Appendix 3 to the report).

Has it been or will it be considered by any other Council Committee, Advisory Panel or other body?

No

Will this report go to Council?

No

Report title:

Statement of Community Involvement

1. Context (or background)

- 1.1. 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.
- 1.2. 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 such as (although not exclusively) those highlighted by the current Covid-19 pandemic.
- 1.3. 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.
- 1.4. 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. Authority to consult was granted by the Cabinet member for Housing and Communities on 12th February 2021, and ran for a period of six weeks, from Monday 15th February to Monday 29th March 2021. Due to Covid-19 restrictions this consultation was 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.
- 1.5. Appendix 2 to the report sets out the comments received, responses to the points made and any changes made to the SCI where applicable.

2. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 2.1. Cabinet may wish for the current SCI to remain in place. However, this is out of date as the planning system has changed considerably in recent years, and additionally there is now a requirement to review the SCI every five years to ensure it remains up to date. Therefore, this option is not recommended.
- 2.2. The recommendation is to adopt the new SCI, as per Appendix 1 to the report, in order to conform with regulation and to ensure that the City Council effectively engages and consults with its communities.

3. Results of consultation undertaken

- 3.1. The SCI was consulted on for a period of six weeks between 15th February and 29th March 2021. The comments received, and responses to these including amendments to the SCI are contained at Appendix 2 to the report.

4. Timetable for implementing this decision

4.1. The decision will be implemented immediately.

5. Comments from the Director of Finance and the Director of Law and Governance

5.1. Financial implications

There are no financial implications to the recommendation.

5.2. Legal implications

There are no direct implications as a result of this report. Section 18 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires local planning authorities to produce a Statement of Community Involvement, which should explain how they will engage local communities and other interested parties in producing their Local Plan and determining planning applications.

Under regulation 10A of The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended) local planning authorities must review Statements of Community Involvement at least once every 5 years from their adoption date to ensure that policies remain relevant.

6. Other implications

6.1. How will this contribute to the Council Plan (www.coventry.gov.uk/councilplan/)

Planning policy documents and planning applications help deliver the aims and objectives of the One Coventry Corporate Plan by determining the type and quantum of development needed, where this should be located, areas which should be protected, enhanced or improved and the infrastructure which should be provided. In line with the Corporate Plan, this enables the delivery of employment and investment opportunities, helping our centres to thrive, delivering a range of housing and infrastructure to meet the community's varied needs and ensuring the right facilities are in place to enable the city's profile to be raised. The SCI sets out how residents, businesses and other stakeholders and interested parties can have a say in the area in the planning processes which impact the area in which they live, work, study or visit.

6.2. How is risk being managed?

There are no risks associated with this report. The Statement of Community Involvement does, however, relate to consultation processes and procedures some of which would require individual risk assessments at the appropriate time, for instance when hiring a venue for a consultation event.

6.3. What is the impact on the organisation?

There is no direct impact on the organisation as a result of the recommendation.

6.4. Equality/ EIA

A full Equality and Impact Assessment (ECA) was undertaken as part of developing the Local Plan. As part of that analysis, the Council had due regard to its public sector equality duty under section 149 of the Equality Act (2010).

6.5. Implications for (or impact on) climate change and the environment

There are no implications identified.

6.6. Implications for partner organisations?

There are no implications identified.

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Service

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Clara Thomson	Planning and Highways Lawyer, Legal Services	Law and Governance	14/06/21	15/06/21
Andrew Walster	Director of Streetscene and Regulatory Services	-	14/06/21	15/06/21
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