

Briefing note

To: Cabinet

13th July 2021

Subject: Adoption of Statement of Community Involvement

1 Purpose of the Note

- 1.1 To inform the Cabinet of the resolutions arising from an item on the Statement of Community Involvement by the Communities and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Board (4) at their meeting on the 18th March 2021.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Cabinet is recommended to note that the Communities and Neighbourhood Scrutiny Board (4) supports the Statement of Community Involvement in principle.

3 Background and Information

- 3.1 At their meeting on the 18th March 2021, the Communities and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Board (4) considered an item on the Draft Statement of Community Involvement as part of the consultation process.
- 3.2 The Board considered a presentation on the Draft Statement of Community Involvement, questioned officers, received responses, and discussed the following issues:
 - The Scrutiny welcomed the document which had last been refreshed in 2012.
 - The statement would help to engage communities with the planning process. With larger developments this would mean getting developers to engage at an early stage and better publicity and notification when applications were due to go to Committee.
 - There were opportunities to evolve how we engage with communities – continuing to use traditional methods when appropriate but also using technology to offer alternatives and attract input from a wider demographic.
 - The planning framework was set nationally, and the Council would work flexibly within the constraints of it to get as much involvement as possible.
 - Local Plans need to be reviewed five years from adoption to see whether they remain up to date. The five-year trigger for Coventry is December 2022.
 - It was possible for neighbourhoods preparing Neighbourhood Plans to cross local authority boundaries but a forum which recognised the area would need to be created and recognised.
 - If the housing numbers were reviewed now, it would lead to an uplift in housing targets due to the Government making changes to the way in which housing need is calculated.

3.3 The Communities and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Board (4):

- Supported the Statement of Community Involvement in principle
- Supported the updating of the Coventry City Council Planning Portal to improve involvement of residents in the planning process
- Recommended that the Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities arranges all Members briefings on the Statement of Community Involvement and on future changes to the planning process as prescribed by legislation.

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