

REPORT OF THE LEAD CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT

The Lead Cabinet Member for Economy, Transport and Environment, Councillor C Maynard, met on 12 November 2012.

Attendance: Councillor Maynard (Lead Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment)

Also present: Councillors Rodohan and Stogdon

1. Statement of Community Involvement

- 1.1 The Lead Cabinet Member has considered a report by the Director of Economy, Transport and Environment concerning the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) which is a statutory requirement under the Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. The expenditure involved in the publication of the SCI is covered by existing budgets.
- 1.2 One of the main aims of the new planning system introduced by the Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act is to strengthen community involvement. To make sure that local communities and stakeholders have active involvement throughout the planning process, all local authorities have to produce a SCI.
- 1.3 The County Council's SCI covers all the Local Development Documents the Council intends to prepare in the Minerals and Waste Development Scheme. It also covers all planning applications for minerals and waste (County Matters) and for the County Council's own service development (e.g. schools, roads).
- 1.4 The SCI has been revised to take into account both the changes to the planning system since the previous SCI was adopted in 2006, and the creation of the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA).
- 1.5 The Lead Member agreed at his 18 June Meeting to publish the draft revised SCI for public consultation. The Planning Authority received five responses during the eight weeks consultation period. A schedule outlining the comments received and the proposed response is set out in Appendix 1. Full copies of the responses are available in the Members Room. Some minor amendments have been made to the SCI as a result of the comments received. The revised SCI is set out in Appendix 2.

Consultation Responses

- 1.6 The revised SCI incorporates changes to the planning system included in the Localism Act 2011, the National Planning Policy Framework (2012) and updated planning regulations. It also includes changes to the Planning Authorities' consultation procedures which have been developed following experience of public consultation during both the development of the Waste and Minerals Plan and the determination of planning applications.

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- 1.7 There are only two proposed minor changes to the final SCI following the consultation. These relate to a footnote explaining what happens to consultations received outside of a consultation period and the addition of a paragraph on consultation with Parish Councils and Local Members.
- 1.8 A further change is suggested to provide clarity on the process for Non-Material Amendment applications where consultation is at the planning authority's discretion. Further details are included in Appendix 1. Appendices 1 and 2 are circulated separately with the background papers.
- 1.9 The Council has to meet the statutory requirement to produce a Statement of Community Involvement. The results of the Public Consultation have been analysed and changes proposed to the SCI where appropriate. The revised SCI updates the existing document to take into account changes in national government planning policy and the Localism Act, and reflects experiences in public consultation over the past 6 years. It also covers revised process and arrangements that will need to operate for applications within the South Downs National Park. The document needs to be adopted by Council and used as the basis for community engagement undertaken by the planning authority.
- 1.10 The Lead Cabinet Member **recommends** the County Council to
- ✧ Agree the response to representations on the draft Statement of Community Involvement as set out in Appendix 1 and agree the proposed changes to the document as set out in Appendix 2; and
 - ✧ Adopt and publish the revised Statement of Community Involvement.

12 November 2012

CARL MAYNARD
Lead Cabinet Member for
Transport and
Environment