

Report to: Lead Member Transport & Environment

Date of meeting: 18 July 2017

By: Director of Communities, Economy and Transport

Title: Statement of Community Involvement Revision

Purpose: To seek the Lead Member's agreement to publish the revised draft Statement of Community Involvement for consultation.

RECOMMENDATION: The Lead Member is recommended to approve the revised draft Statement of Community Involvement for public consultation.

1 Background

1.1 Section 18 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires local planning authorities to produce a Statement of Community Involvement (SCI), which should explain how they will engage local communities and other interested parties in producing their Local Plan and determining planning applications. The SCI should be regularly reviewed and accordingly revised in order to ensure that it is kept relevant. Any revisions made to the SCI need to be subject to public consultation.

1.2 The County Council's SCI needs to cover the consultation and engagement arrangements for the Local Plans the Council intends to prepare, as set out in the Minerals and Waste Development Scheme (Appendix 1). It also needs to cover the consultation and engagement arrangements for all planning applications for minerals and waste (County Matters) and for the County Council's own service development (e.g. schools, roads and libraries).

1.3 There have been a number of changes to the planning system since the previous SCI was adopted in 2013 and it is therefore in need of revision. In addition, the SCI needs to be updated following changes to the delegation arrangements regarding the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) and the work that was previously undertaken by the County Council on its behalf.

2 Supporting Information

2.1 The draft revised SCI has been developed following experience of public consultation and engagement undertaken during the development of the Waste and Minerals Plan, the Waste and Minerals Sites Plan and the determination of planning applications. The draft revised SCI is enclosed as Appendix 2.

2.2 The draft revised SCI sets out how and when communities can become involved in planning matters and the methods of consultation, engagement and publicity the Planning Authority will use. It further establishes the minimum public consultation and publicity standards the Council is required by law to meet and sets out how and when these will be exceeded. The draft revised SCI also reflects that East Sussex County Council no longer acts as agent for the South Downs National Park Authority in development management matters within the Park's area of East Sussex.

2.3 In order to obtain the views of communities and other stakeholders on how they wish to engage in the planning process, it is proposed that there is public consultation on the draft revised SCI. Comments received during the consultation will be then be appraised. A final version of the SCI will then be presented to Lead Member for adoption.

3. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

3.1 The Council has to meet the statutory requirement to produce a Statement of Community Involvement. The draft revised SCI updates the existing document to take into account changes in national government planning policy and the Localism Act and reflects experiences in undertaking public consultation over the past four years. It also reflects the changes to development management delegation arrangements within the South Downs National Park. Following Lead Member agreement,

the draft document will be published for public consultation. A final version of the SCI will then be reported to Lead Member for adoption at a later date.

RUPERT CLUBB

Director of Communities, Economy and Transport

Contact Officer: Sarah Iles

Tel. No: 01273 481631

Email: sarah.iles@eastsussex.gov.uk

LOCAL MEMBERS

All

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

East Sussex Statement of Community Involvement 2013.