

**Report to:** Lead Member for Transport and Environment

**Date of meeting:** 19 March 2018

**By:** Director of Communities, Economy and Transport

**Title:** East Sussex Statement of Community Involvement (Adoption)

**Purpose:** To consider the representations on the draft Statement of Community Involvement and agree changes to the document for adoption by the Council.

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**RECOMMENDATIONS:** The Lead Member is recommended to recommend that the County Council:

**(1) Agree the response to representations on the draft Statement of Community Involvement and agree the proposed changes to the document; and**

**(2) Adopt and publish the revised Statement of Community Involvement.**

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## **1 Background Information**

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. This public consultation has been undertaken and a revised SCI has been prepared for adoption.

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<sup>1</sup>. 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 revised SCI has been developed following experience of public consultation undertaken during both the development of the Waste and Minerals Plan and Waste and Minerals Sites Plan, and the determination of planning applications during recent years.

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<sup>1</sup> This is primarily the first review of the Waste and Minerals Local Plan, see: <https://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/media/7878/lds-2017-02-february.pdf>

2.2 The revised SCI sets out how and when communities can become involved in planning matters and the methods of engagement 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.

2.3 Lead Member agreed at the July 2017 Meeting to publish the draft revised SCI for public consultation. The Planning Authority received four responses during the eight week consultation period. Responses were received from Southern Water, the Environment Agency, Rother District Council and Highways England, none of which were suggesting amendments to the draft SCI. On the basis of the response, no changes have been made to the draft SCI that was presented to Lead Member in July 2017. However, some minor amendments have been made to the SCI to remove the details relating to the consultation which appeared in the draft version.

2.4 The revised SCI is attached as Appendix 1.

### **3. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations**

3.1 The Council has to meet the statutory requirement to produce a Statement of Community Involvement (SCI). 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 has been published for public consultation. The document now needs to be adopted by Council and used as the basis for community engagement undertaken by the planning authority.

**Rupert Clubb**  
**Director of Communities, Economy and Transport**

Contact Officer: Sarah Iles  
Tel. No. 01273 481631  
Email: [sarah.iles@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.iles@eastsussex.gov.uk)

#### LOCAL MEMBERS

All

#### BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

East Sussex Statement of Community Involvement 2013