

Board/Committee:	Policy and Organisation Board
Date of Meeting:	15 th March 2023
Title:	Consultation draft Statement of Community Involvement
Author:	Manager of Planning Policy
Status:	For Decision

PURPOSE

To seek Members' approval to undertake public consultation on a draft Statement of Consultation.

RECOMMENDATION

That this Board:

- Approves the draft Statement of Community Involvement (as set out in Appendix 1 to this Report) for public consultation purposes.

1 Background

- 1.1 The preparation of a Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) is a requirement of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. Furthermore, the Localism Act 2011 emphasises the importance of community involvement in the planning system, and of enabling communities to make a significant contribution towards shaping the places where they live.
- 1.2 The SCI sets out how the Council as the Local Planning Authority involves local residents, businesses and other interested parties in the relevant stages of the plan-making process, other planning policy documents and the development management process.
- 1.3 In accordance with the provisions of the 2004 Act and associated Regulations, the Council adopted its first SCI in 2007. There have been two subsequent reviews in 2012 and 2019. The Council is required to review this document at least every five years or when there have been significant changes in the way it consults the public.

2 The draft Statement of Community Involvement Report

- 2.1 The draft SCI is included in this report in Appendix 1. It sets out the key principles for community involvement and the type of planning policy documents that will be consulted on including the consultation arrangements for:

- the draft Gosport Borough Local Plan 2038;

- other planning policy documents, for example supplementary planning documents and the Community Infrastructure Levy Charging Schedule; and
- planning applications and other development management matters.

2.2 The document sets out the statutory requirements for consultation for each type of planning policy document and also includes the types of methods of consultation which can be considered. The consultation arrangements take into account the General Data Protection Regulations 2018 (as amended).

2.3 It also sets out changes in the consultation procedures to the preparation of a draft Community Infrastructure Levy Charging Schedule. The Community Infrastructure Levy (Amendment) (England) (No.2) Regulations 2019 now requires only one formal round of public consultation from the previous two rounds. Other changes to the draft SCI since the adopted 2019 document relate to the Council's Coastline magazine which has moved from paper and online formats to online only. Local improvements to communication such as use of the Council's Facebook, Twitter e-alerts system to promote further digital engagement in the plan-making process have also been taken into account. The SCI recognises that not all members of the local community will have access to digital platforms or wish to engage with the plan-making process in that way and therefore the draft SCI also includes consideration of more traditional forms of public engagement such as exhibitions in local venues, site notices, consultation letters and face-to-face meetings as part of the potential suite of consultation options the Council can utilise.

2.4 The draft SCI itself will be subject to public consultation. The Council would normally undertake consultation over a six week period, however due to the Easter school holiday period, it is proposed to extend the consultation period for a further two week period with the consultation period commencing on 24th March and ending on 19th May 2023.

2.5 The draft SCI will be published on the Council's website and e- notification letters (and where necessary printed letters) will be sent out to those specific consultation bodies as set out in Appendix 1 of the draft SCI and to other organisations and individuals on the Council's Local Plan Consultation Database.

3 Next steps

3.1 Following consultation, a Schedule of Responses to those representations received will be prepared to accompany a revised SCI which will be reported to Board for Members to approve for adoption.

4 Risk Assessment

4.1 SCIs now have to be reviewed at least every five years under the provisions of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England)(Amendment) Regulations 2017. Failure to prepare an updated

version of the SCI could leave the Council open to a legal challenge with regard to the preparation of the Gosport Borough Local Plan 2038 and the new Community Infrastructure Levy Charging Schedule as they proceed towards submission and examination.

Financial Services comments:	None arising from this report
Legal Services comments:	None received
Equality and Diversity:	The preparation of the SCI will ensure that all members of the Gosport community have an opportunity to be involved in the preparation of the Gosport Borough Local Plan 2038, other related planning documents and the development management process. An Equalities Impact Assessment has been prepared and relevant actions incorporated into the SCI.
Climate Change:	See IIA (Appendix 2)
Crime and Disorder	See IIA (Appendix 2)
Council Plan:	The SCI will help to facilitate greater participation in the planning process in line with the core values of the Council Plan.
Risk Assessment:	See Section 4
Background papers:	None.
Appendices	Appendix 1: Statement of Community Involvement: Consultation Draft (March 2023) Appendix 2: Integrated Impact Assessment
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