

<b>Board/Committee:</b>	Policy and Organisation Board
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	5 <sup>th</sup> July 2023
<b>Title:</b>	Statement of Community Involvement
<b>Author:</b>	Manager of Planning Policy
<b>Status:</b>	For Decision

## **PURPOSE**

To seek Members' approval of the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) following a period of consultation on a draft Statement of Community Involvement.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

That the Board:

- Approves the Statement of Community Involvement for Planning Policy and Development Management functions.

### **1 Background**

1.1 Members will recall that a draft version of the SCI was approved at the Policy and Organisation Board on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2023 for consultation purposes.

1.2 Under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 the Council is required to produce a Statement of Community Involvement. 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. The SCI sets out how the Council as local planning authority will involve local residents, businesses and other interested parties in the relevant stages of the plan making process, consultation on other planning policy documents, and the development management process.

1.3 Under the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2017 (Regulation 10A) 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.

1.4 This report provides a summary of responses to the recent consultation and where appropriate proposes amendments to the draft SCI. A summary of the main issues and analysis of consultation and any proposed changes to the draft SCI are set out in Appendices 1 and 2 respectively to this report.

### **2 The Report**

- 2.1 Consultation took place between 24<sup>th</sup> March and 19<sup>th</sup> May 2023. This covered an eight week period rather than the normal six week period in order to take account of the Easter holidays and the early May and Coronation Bank Holidays. A total of 456 organisations and individuals were sent letters of notification about the consultation. In addition to these letters, copies of the draft document, consultation notices and comments forms were placed in the local library and community hubs at Elson and Lee-on-the-Solent On this particular occasion and due to there being local elections in other parts of Hampshire; the County Council were unable to host the draft document in the Discovery Centre or Bridgemary Library however the consultation material was clear about where the document could be viewed. The draft document and an on-line comments form were also available on the Council's website: [www.gosport.gov.uk/sci](http://www.gosport.gov.uk/sci)
- 2.2 A total of 14 representations were received. This level of representations was expected and it is of a similar level for previous versions of the document and comparable with those received by other local authorities on their draft SCIs reflecting the nature of the document. An analysis of the responses to the consultation is contained in Appendix 1 to this report and a full set of redacted responses are available in the Members Room as well as on the Council's website. This Appendix sets out the type of respondent – local resident or organisation and the details of the comments made. An officer comment has been added to address specific matters. In some instances it is proposed to amend the SCI in response to the comments received. These are also included in Appendix 1 so that any proposed amendments are clearly identified and are set out in the Schedule of Proposed Changes in Appendix 2.
- 2.3 A revised SCI has been prepared taking into account the amendments as well as updating the tables and text in reference to the Discovery Centre and Bridgemary Library and other community libraries in case these organisations cannot accommodate the Council when it is undertaking consultation in line with the timetable set out in the Local Development Scheme. This revised SCI is set out in Appendix 3.

### **3 Risk Assessment**

- 3.1 SCIs now have to be reviewed every 5 years under the provisions of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 as amended by Regulation 10A 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. The SCI, as amended, will set out an up to date framework for consulting the local community on planning documents prepared by the Council and planning applications submitted to the Council.
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<b>Financial Services comments:</b>	None received.
<b>Legal Services comments:</b>	It is a statutory requirement that Gosport Borough Council as a Local Planning Authority keeps local communities and other key stakeholders informed of its activities in respect to plan making, planning applications and other planning matters, such as the Community Infrastructure Levy. Section 18 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended), as elaborated by paragraph 035 of the Planning Practice Guidance for plan making, sets out that Gosport Borough Council must set out through their SCI how they will engage communities on the preliminary stages of plan-making, as well as decision-making functions under Part 3 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. Further to this, section 6 of the Neighbourhood Planning Act 2017 requires that SCIs also set out how Gosport Borough Council will support groups undertaking neighbourhood planning.
<b>Equality and Diversity</b>	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 Integrated Impact Assessment has been prepared and relevant actions incorporated into the SCI.
<b>Council Plan:</b>	The SCI will help to facilitate greater participation in the planning process in line with the core values of the Council Plan.
<b>Risk Assessment:</b>	See Section 3
<b>Background papers:</b>	Report to Policy and Organisation Board 15 <sup>th</sup> March: Consultation Draft Statement of Community Involvement (Agenda Item 13).
<b>Appendices</b>	Appendix 1: Summary and Analysis of Consultation Responses.  Appendix 2: Schedule of Proposed Changes (July 2023).  Appendix 3: Statement of Community Involvement (July 2023).  Appendix 4: Integrated Impact Assessment.
<b>Report author/ Lead Officer:</b>	Kim Catt, Senior Planning Policy Officer