

20 July 2017**Agenda Item: 8****REPORT OF CORPORATE DIRECTOR, PLACE****REVIEW OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL'S STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY
INVOLVEMENT****Purpose of the Report**

1. To seek Member approval for a review of the County Council's Statement of Community Involvement.

Information and Advice

2. The County Council has had an adopted Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) since it was first adopted in January 2007. An updated SCI was prepared and adopted in April 2013 and a copy of the latest SCI is attached to this report. The SCI details how the County Council engages with local communities when carrying out its planning functions: namely the preparation of forward plans and policies such as the Minerals and Waste Local Plans; and the determination of planning applications submitted to the County Council for determination. The provisions in the SCI are supplementary to the statutory consultation and publicity requirements that the County Council has to follow when carrying out its statutory planning functions although the provisions in the SCI have to be followed once adopted.
3. Since the present SCI was adopted in 2013, both the Planning Policy and Development Management Teams have implemented new and improved ways of working, largely centred on more electronic consultation and communication in order to work more efficiently and effectively. In order to continue to push this new way of working forward yet further, it is considered that the SCI needs to be updated again as the County Council is required to work in accordance with the SCI when carrying out its planning functions.
4. Any review of the SCI would involve consultation with key stakeholders both within local communities and businesses that the County Council regularly engages with. Following this process, a revised version of the SCI will be brought to Communities and Place Committee for consideration before being taken to Policy Committee for approval and adoption, probably towards the end of the year.

Other Options Considered

5. Not reviewing the SCI would result in the County Council's planning functions having to be carried out following consultation and publicity procedures which are becoming out of date and which are placing unnecessary financial burdens on the County Council.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

6. The present adopted SCI is considered to be out of date and needs to be reviewed in light of present ways of working.

Statutory and Policy Implications

7. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

8. Having an updated SCI would allow more efficient ways of working to be adopted.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) It is RECOMMENDED that Members approve the commencement of the review of the Statement of Community Involvement, with the revised document to be brought to Communities and Place Committee for consideration before being taken to Policy Committee for adoption.

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Constitutional Comments [LM 27/6/17]

9. The recommendations in the report fall within the Terms of Reference of the Communities and Place Committee

Financial Comments [SES 27/6/17]

10. There are no specific financial implications arising directly from this report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

None

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All