



**REPORT of  
DIRECTOR OF STRATEGY PERFORMANCE AND GOVERNANCE**

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to  
**COUNCIL**  
**2 SEPTEMBER 2021**

**STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

**1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 The draft Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) sets out how the Council will consult with stakeholders and the community on planning policy consultations, neighbourhood plans and planning applications. The six-week consultation has finished, and the responses received have informed revisions to the draft SCI. Council is now requested to adopt the SCI (at **APPENDIX 1**).

**2. RECOMMENDATION**

That the Council adopts the 2021 Statement of Community Involvement (**APPENDIX 1**).

**3. SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES**

- 3.1 The Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) sets out how the Council will consult on planning policy issues, planning applications and neighbourhood plans. The SCI was adopted by Council in 2018. It is considered appropriate that the SCI should be reviewed now in line with the forthcoming Local Plan review, and to reflect changes in methods of communication and engagement.
- 3.2 The draft SCI was approved for public consultation by the Strategy and Resources Committee on 15 June 2021 (Minute No. 104 refers). A six-week consultation followed. All the individuals and organisations on the LDP mailing were notified of the consultation (1,093 people and organisations). It was also publicised through social media, on the Council's website and a public notice in the Maldon and Burnham Standard.
- 3.3 Twenty-nine responses were received, ten by email and 19 on the online comments form provided for this consultation. Responses were received from:
- Transport for London;
  - Natural England;
  - Historic England;
  - Mid Essex Clinical Commissioning Group / Mid and South Essex Health and Care Partnership;
  - Essex County Council;
  - Wickham Bishops Parish Council;
  - Althorne Parish Council;

- Purleigh Parish Council;
- 21 Individuals.

3.4 The responses received are summarised in the Statement of Consultation (at **APPENDIX 2**). Officers have carefully considered all of the comments received and have responded to the main relevant issues and common issues raised in the consultation responses. The responses have been taken into account in revising the SCI. Changes made to the SCI as a result of the consultation are detailed in the Statement of Consultation.

## 4. CONCLUSION

4.1 The draft revised SCI was published for public consultation for a period of six weeks to allow for stakeholders and members of the public to comment and provide input to the SCI. The SCI has been amended as a result of the responses received. The SCI is now before Council for adoption.

## 5. IMPACT ON STRATEGIC THEMES

5.1 The SCI supports all the Place, Prosperity and Community outcomes (1 to 13) in the Corporate Plan, through the use of technology (outcome 17) and meaningful engagement (outcome 18).

## 6. IMPLICATIONS

- (i) **Impact on Customers** – SCI provides clear information on how customers will be consulted on planning matters and how to make comments. This will enable communities to better engage with the planning system.
- (ii) **Impact on Equalities** – The SCI is not intended to benefit any one particular group. As such, the SCI is relevant to everyone who will live, work and visit the District
- (iii) **Impact on Risk** – The SCI reflects the statutory consultation requirements. Legislation requires that Local Plans are prepared in conformity with an adopted SCI, by reviewing and updating the SCI now, ensures that it reflects the current statutory consultation requirements, and provides a framework for future LDP consultations.
- (iv) **Impact on Resources (financial)** – There are no direct financial implications associated with the report.
- (v) **Impact on Resources (human)** – There are no direct human resources associated with the report.
- (vi) **Impact on the Environment** – Focusing on digital engagement may reduce natural resource use. However, no consultation process is without a degree of environmental impact.
- (vii) **Impact on Strengthening Communities** - SCI provides clear information on how customers will be consulted on planning matters and how to make comments. This will enable communities to better engage with the planning

system. Strengthening the procedures for community involvement will help to enable thriving communities.

Background Papers: None.

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