

Cabinet



Date of meeting: 10 March 2020

Title of Report: **Statement of Community Involvement – Cabinet Approval to Adopt**

Lead Member: Councillor Mark Coker (Cabinet Member Strategic Planning and Infrastructure)

Lead Strategic Director: Anthony Payne (Strategic Director for Place)

Author: Richard Grant

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Your Reference: N/A

Key Decision: No

Confidentiality: Part I - Official

Purpose of Report

The report is concerned with the City Council's statutory duty to review its Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) at least once every 5 years, a provision introduced in The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2017. In September 2019, Cabinet approved an updated draft SCI for consultation, and consultation subsequently took place between November 2019 and January 2020. This report summarises the results of the consultation and recommends that the SCI is adopted. The new SCI will relate to Plymouth, South Hams and West Devon, in response to the collaboration by the three Councils on the Plymouth and South West Devon Joint Local Plan, and will therefore require separate adoption by the three councils.

Recommendations and Reasons

1. It is recommended that, subject to South Hams and West Devon agreeing likewise, the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) is formally adopted under section 23 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

Reason: To formally adopt the SCI under section 23 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and to bring it into force, setting out the minimum requirements for consultation and involvement that must be followed by the Local Planning Authorities of the Councils.

Alternative options considered and rejected

1. To produce and adopt a Plymouth only SCI – as we are working jointly with South Hams and West Devon on the Joint Local Plan this option would create confusion in the plan making and review process and present significant logistical difficulties for further joint planning policy work.

Relevance to the Corporate Plan and/or the Plymouth Plan

The SCI is directly supportive of the Council's values of being Democratic, Responsible, Fair and Co-operative. It prioritises: Ensuring that it is clear where the responsibility for decisions rests (Democratic); Enabling the trail of decision making to be open (Responsible); Being honest and open in how we conduct consultations and being fair to everyone (Fair), and; Where it is appropriate, ensuring that partners and communities are directly involved in shaping plans (Co-operative).

The SCI sets the minimum requirements for our engagement in relation to future reviews of the Joint Local Plan (part of the Plymouth Plan) as well as any supporting planning documents such as Development Plan Documents or Supplementary Planning Documents.

Implications for the Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications

The costs of preparing the Statement of Community Involvement and public consultation are covered within existing budget Joint Local Plan budget, through which costs are shared between the councils.

Effective community engagement can deliver real cost savings to the Council, as has proved the case with the adopted SCI. The cost of public examinations for the Joint Local Plan have been substantially less than could have been the case. In part, this is as a result of the effectiveness of the Council's approach to community involvement, which has helped reduce the numbers of representations needing to be heard at Public Examination.

Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications

Although the SCI itself does not have any direct implications to the Carbon Footprint, it includes a key principle to design our consultation programmes with a view to an awareness of the climate emergency and the sustainability agenda.

Other Implications: e.g. Health and Safety, Risk Management, Child Poverty

** When considering these proposals members have a responsibility to ensure they give due regard to the Council's duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination and promote good relations between people who share protected characteristics under the Equalities Act and those who do not.*

Equality and Diversity

The SCI will ensure that a range of people have the opportunity to influence the plans (including specifically the Local Plan) related to planning, in accordance equality and diversity agendas. 'Equality and Diversity' is clearly articulated as one of the core principles of the SCI. Furthermore, the SCI requires that consultations are supported by a Consultation Statement that, among other things, will state how the principle of Equality and Diversity has been taken into account in the running of the consultation. Where appropriate consultations will also be supported and informed specifically by an Equality Impact Assessment.

Appendices

*Add rows as required to box below

Ref.	Title of Appendix	Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable) <i>If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.</i>						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
A	Statement of Community Involvement – Background Report							
B	Statement of Community Involvement: Plymouth, South Hams and West Devon.							

Background papers:

*Add rows as required to box below

Please list all unpublished, background papers relevant to the decision in the table below. Background papers are unpublished works, relied on to a material extent in preparing the report, which disclose facts or matters on which the report or an important part of the work is based.

Title of any background paper(s)	Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable) <i>If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.</i>						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Sign off:

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Originating Senior Leadership Team member: Paul Barnard, Service Director for Strategic Planning and Infrastructure											
Please confirm the Strategic Director(s) has agreed the report? Yes Date agreed: 24/02/2020											
Cabinet Member approval: Mark Coker, Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Infrastructure (approved by email) Date approved: 27/02/2020											