

 <b>Executive</b> <b>13 January 2016</b>		<b>Agenda Item No.</b> <b>11</b>
<b>Title</b>	Revised Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)	
<b>For further information about this report please contact</b>	Lorna Coldicott, Senior Planner, <a href="mailto:lorna.coldicott@warwickdc.gov.uk">lorna.coldicott@warwickdc.gov.uk</a> Tel: 456505	
<b>Wards of the District directly affected</b>	All	
<b>Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006?</b>	No	
<b>Date and meeting when issue was last considered and relevant minute number</b>	23 April 2014 Minute no: 192	
<b>Background Papers</b>	Statement of Community Involvement Report of public consultation	

<b>Contrary to the policy framework:</b>	No
<b>Contrary to the budgetary framework:</b>	No
<b>Key Decision?</b>	Yes
<b>Included within the Forward Plan? (If yes include reference number)</b>	No
<b>Equality Impact Assessment Undertaken</b>	Yes/No (If No state why below)

Officer/Councillor Approval		
Officer Approval	Date	Name
Chief Executive/Deputy Chief Executive	09.11.15	Chris Elliott, Bill Hunt, Andy Jones
Head of Service	09.11.15	Tracy Darke
CMT	09.11.15	Chris Elliott, Bill Hunt, Andy Jones
Section 151 Officer	09.11.15	Andy Jones
Monitoring Officer	09.11.15	Andy Jones
Finance	09.11.15	Mike Snow
Portfolio Holder(s)	13.11.15	Cllr Stephen Cross
Consultation & Community Engagement		
Insert details of any consultation undertaken or proposed to be undertaken with regard to this report. Public consultation was carried out between 5 October and 16 November 2015		
Final Decision?		Yes
Suggested next steps (if not final decision please set out below)		

## **1. Summary**

- 1.1 This report seeks adoption of the Statement of Community Involvement 2016 (SCI). The SCI formally sets out the policy and standards for engaging residents, local groups, stakeholders and statutory consultees in preparing development plans and how the council will consult on planning applications.
- 1.2 It also sets out how the Council will meet the 'duty to co-operate' to meet the requirements of The Localism Act 2011 by engaging with neighbouring local authorities and other statutory bodies to consider joint approaches to plan-making.

## **2 Recommendation**

- 2.1 That the Executive adopts the 2016 Statement of Community Involvement as set out in Appendix A

## **3. Reasons for the Recommendation**

- 3.1 It is a statutory requirement under Section 18 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act as amended, that the Council produces and adopts a Statement of Community Involvement (SCI).
- 3.2 The Council's first SCI was adopted in July 2007 and was revised in April 2014 as there had been a number of changes to the planning system. These were largely introduced through the Localism Act 2011 and the National Planning Policy Framework in March 2012.
- 3.3 At the meeting of the Executive on 23 April 2014, members were assured that the SCI would be fully revised to meet the latest regulations, during 2015. The revised document before you now is that revision.
- 3.4 The SCI provides the community with clarity on the levels of involvement that they should expect in planning processes, and explains in detail our policy for engaging the community in the preparation of the Warwick District Local Plan and in the consideration of planning applications. The SCI also outlines the consultation processes for Neighbourhood Planning and for the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and our approach to the 'duty to co-operate'.
- 3.5 Since the first SCI was adopted in July 2007 the Government has introduced a series of changes to the planning system. These were principally through the Localism Act 2011 and the issue of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) in March 2012. This was followed by the Planning Practice Guidance (PPG), which complements the NPPF. Changes were also brought about through the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2010.
- 3.6 These changes have resulted in the streamlining of plan preparation, as well as a number of other relevant changes. The changes have also introduced a duty to cooperate with neighbouring local authorities and other organisations on matters of strategic, cross-boundary significance. The Localism Act 2011 also led to the revocation of the regional strategies and Structure Plans.
- 3.7 In recognition of these reforms, the Government published revised local planning regulations in 2012. These are currently set out in the Town and Country Planning Local Planning (England) Regulations 2012.

- 3.8 This SCI takes account of these changes and replaces the July 2007 and revised April 2014 versions of the SCI.
- 3.9 The SCI was subject to a public consultation that commenced on 5 October and ended on 16 November. As a result of this, a total of 8 responses have been received. These are supportive, although some suggestions were made by Warwickshire and West Mercia Police with regard to their involvement in pre-application discussions. Reference was also made to the omission of the fire and rescue service as a named consultee in the list of consultees and to rectify this, 'emergency services', has been added to include all elements of this important service sector.
- 3.10 Additionally, amendments were suggested by Baginton Parish Council and Kenilworth Town Council and one individual has suggested another consultation body to consider. These suggestions have been summarised and responses provided as to why these amendments are/are not supported and where changes have been made accordingly. A summary of all responses and actions can be seen in Appendix B.

#### 4. **Policy Framework**

- 4.1 The SCI sets out how and when stakeholders and local communities can be involved in the preparation of the Council's planning policy documents and in decisions on planning applications. All such planning policy documents that are prepared will need to align with the Sustainable Community Strategy and the Council's Corporate Strategy where appropriate.
- 4.2 **Fit for the Future** – This final version of the SCI aligns with and helps to deliver the Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) and the Council's Fit for the Future programme.
- 4.3 **Impact Assessments** – It is not considered that the SCI has any adverse impact in respect of Equalities. Rather it seeks to involve all sectors of the community in planning issues.

#### 5. **Budgetary Framework**

- 5.1 This SCI update has been prepared having regard to existing resources for community involvement in the planning process.

#### 6. **Risks**

- 6.1 Not having a SCI would mean that the authority was not in compliance with government policy. In addition, it would mean that there would be no clear guidance for stakeholders and local communities as to when they can expect to be involved in the planning process and their views sought.
- 6.2 Continuing with a SCI which is out of date would result in expectations being unmet and an excessive amount of officer time being spent on stages in the process that are no longer required, subjecting policy documents in particular to additional delay.

## **7. Alternative Option(s) considered**

- 7.1 None. This is a requirement under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended), the Localism Act 2011, The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012, the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2010 and the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2012 and has been prepared in conformity with these documents.