

**HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**Decision Report**

<b>Decision Maker:</b>	Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment
<b>Date:</b>	6 May 2014
<b>Title:</b>	Hampshire Statement of Community Involvement
<b>Reference:</b>	5777
<b>Report From:</b>	Director of Economy, Transport and Environment

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**1. Executive Summary**

1.1 The purpose of this paper is to consider revisions to Hampshire County Council's Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) and to recommend subsequent adoption to the Council. This will ensure that the SCI is compliant with recent changes to legislation and Government guidance. It also allows the opportunity to build on the lessons learnt during the preparation of the Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan (HMWP) in terms of community engagement.

1.2 This paper seeks to

- highlight the need to prepare a new SCI to supersede Hampshire's currently adopted SCI (2006) and its associated addendum (2010);
- show there are no financial consequences to implementing the revised SCI;
- demonstrate that revising the SCI allows subsequent consultation with local communities in relation to planning policy and planning applications to be carried out in accordance with national legislation and policy and be legally compliant; and to
- show how the experiences learnt during the preparation of the HMWP have influenced the revised SCI.

**Contextual information**

1.3 The SCI is a statutory planning document that sets out how Hampshire County Council will involve the local community (consultees and interested parties) in:

- preparing and reviewing the minerals and waste planning policy documents; and
- in local decision making on planning applications for minerals, waste and County Council developments.

1.4 A SCI was adopted by the County Council in 2006. Since the SCI was adopted, various changes in legislation have occurred. In 2008, the requirements to include the SCI in the Local Development Scheme (LDS) and for it to be independently

examined were removed. In addition, the LDS and the SCI no longer need to be submitted to the Secretary of State.

- 1.5 An addendum to the SCI was prepared in 2010 following the introduction of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2008, reflecting these changes.
- 1.6 Following the adoption of the addendum of the SCI, further changes in legislation have occurred. The Localism Act 2011 set out a series of measures with the potential to achieve a substantial and lasting shift in power away from central government and towards local people. The Act has resulted in a streamlining of plan preparation as well as a number of other relevant changes. Although the Localism Act did not propose any changes to the requirements for the SCI, it did introduce the 'duty to co-operate' and set out the requirements for consultation with key bodies and organisations on matters of strategic cross-boundary significance. This issue therefore links to the SCI.
- 1.7 In recognition of these reforms, the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012, revised local planning regulations and introduced changes which are relevant to the SCI. In particular:
  - a simplified plan preparation process with fewer formal preparation stages;
  - more streamlined consultation and engagement requirements which reflect the simplified system; and
  - a requirement to take account of the increased use and availability of electronic communications.
- 1.8 As a result of the changes to legislation, a review of the adopted SCI is required. The revised SCI includes improved procedures for involving Hampshire's local communities in planning, reflecting the introduction of new procedures for consultation on planning applications (for minerals, waste and County Council development) and the methods used and experiences learnt from the development of the HMWP.
- 1.9 The new SCI covers the following issues:
  - Why a new SCI is required and what it covers;
  - Who needs to be involved in the planning process in Hampshire;
  - Planning policy – how consultees and interested parties will be involved in the preparation of Minerals and Waste Plan's and associated documentation (e.g. Supplementary Planning Documents);
  - Development management – how consultees and interested parties will be involved in the determination of planning applications for minerals, waste or County Council developments;
  - E-government issues;
  - Equality issues; and
  - Monitoring the implementation of the SCI.
- 1.10 The SCI complements corporate policy on communicating with the public. Over and above satisfying the relevant regulations in relation to community involvement in the planning process, the SCI also demonstrates best practice and the County Council's desire to work in partnership and collaboration with local communities.
- 1.11 A public consultation on the revised SCI took place for 6 weeks from 13 January – 24 February 2014. 25 responses were received on the SCI as part of this

consultation. The representations received from this consultation have been taken into account in the finalised version of the SCI, as appropriate.

1.12 The revised SCI is set out in the accompanying Appendix.

1.13 The revised SCI, if adopted by the County Council, will replace the SCI adopted in 2006 and its associated addendum (2010).

## **2. Finance**

2.1 There are no financial implications for the County Council.

## **3. Performance**

3.1 The revised SCI will enable the County Council to fulfil its commitment to legally compliant community engagement in the planning process.

## **4. Future direction**

4.1 The SCI forms the basis of the County Council's procedures for community engagement in preparing minerals and waste planning policy and in determining planning applications for minerals, waste and County Council developments.

## **5. Recommendations**

5.1 That the Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment recommends to Full Council that the Statement of Community Involvement be adopted.

5.2 That the Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment recommends to Full Council that the Director of Economy, Transport and Environment, in consultation with the Executive Member, be given delegated authority to make further detailed and/or technical amendments to the Statement of Community Involvement that may be required to comply with new guidance or legislation, provided that these do not significantly change the scope, emphasis or opportunities for participation set out in the Statement of Community Involvement.

**CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:****Links to the Corporate Strategy**

<b>1. Hampshire safer and more secure for all:</b>	no
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
<b>2. Maximising well-being:</b>	yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
<b>3. Enhancing our quality of place:</b>	yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	

**Other Significant Links**

<b>Links to previous Member decisions:</b>		
<u>Title</u> Revision of the Statement of Community Involvement applicable to preparation of the Hampshire Minerals and Waste Development Framework (HMWDF) Framework	<u>Reference</u> 1407	<u>Date</u> 29/06/2010
<b>Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives</b>		
<u>Title</u> Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2008		<u>Date</u> 27/06/2008

**Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents**

The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)

<u>Document</u>	<u>Location</u>
None	

## **IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:**

### **1. Equalities Impact Assessment:**

- 1.1 The proposals in this report have been developed with due regard to the requirements of the Equality Act 2010, including the Public Sector Equality Duty and the Council's equality objectives. The website contains a summary [assessment of the impacts](#) on [Delivering infrastructure that Hampshire needs](#).
- 1.2 It is considered that the issues covered by this report will not have impacts requiring further specific actions by the Council above those already established in its existing policies and working procedures.

### **2. Impact on Crime and Disorder:**

1. No impact.

### **3. Climate Change:**

2. How does what is being proposed impact on our carbon footprint / energy consumption?  
No impact.
3. How does what is being proposed consider the need to adapt to climate change, and be resilient to its longer term impacts?  
No impacts.

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