

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Environment and Transport
Date:	12 October 2016
Title:	Update to Hampshire Statement of Community Involvement
Reference:	7821
Report From:	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 approval to undertake a public consultation on the revised document. Changes to the SCI are required to ensure that it is compliant with national legislation and Government guidance, and to ensure that plan-making and decision making is completed in a timely manner.

1.2. This paper seeks to:

- highlight the need to prepare a new SCI to supersede Hampshire's currently [adopted SCI \(2014\)](#);
- show there are no financial consequences to implementing the revised SCI;
- demonstrate that revising the SCI strengthens subsequent consultation between Hampshire County Council, local communities and interested parties in relation to the development of minerals and waste planning policy and the determination of planning applications (county council, minerals and waste);
- demonstrate that revising the SCI will ensure all plan-making and development management activities are carried out in accordance with relevant national legislation and policy, ensuring legal compliance; and
- show how the experiences since the adoption of the current SCI have influenced the revision.

2. Contextual information

- 2.1. 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
 - local decision making on planning applications for minerals, waste and County Council developments.
- 2.2. The [current SCI](#) was adopted by the County Council in 2014. This SCI reflected changes to legislation such as the [Town and Country Planning \(Local Development\) \(England\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2008](#), the [Localism Act 2011](#) and the [Town and Country Planning \(Local Planning\) \(England\) Regulations 2012](#).
- 2.3. Since the current SCI was adopted, new [national planning practice guidance](#) has been introduced. There have also been changes to how the development management service is delivered at Hampshire County Council. In addition, the implementation of the current SCI has exposed some areas which require revision. These factors have resulted in the need to amend and clarify parts of the existing SCI.
- 2.4. 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 clarification of the methods used for engagement on plan-making.
- 2.5. The revised SCI covers the following issues:
 - Why a new SCI is required, what it covers (including digital delivery, privacy and equalities);
 - 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 Plans 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; and
 - Monitoring the implementation of the SCI.
- 2.6. 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 and interested parties. It also reflects new corporate measures relating to privacy as appropriate.
- 2.7. A draft SCI is set out in the accompanying Appendix.

- 2.8. To ensure the effectiveness of the revised SCI and to ensure that the needs of the customer are met, approval is sought to undertake a public consultation on the revised SCI for 6 weeks. The consultation will seek views on the draft SCI. The representations received from this consultation will then be taken into account in the finalised version of the SCI, as appropriate.
- 2.9. It is anticipated that members will be briefed on the document in advance of the consultation and this will include a full members briefing and a briefing for the Regulatory Committee.
- 2.10. Authority is sought for the Director of Economy, Transport and Environment to make changes as appropriate in response to the outcomes of the consultation, in consultation with the Executive Member, prior to the submission of the finalised SCI to Full Council for adoption. The revised SCI, if adopted by the County Council, will replace the SCI adopted in 2014.

3. Finance

- 3.1. There are no financial implications for the County Council.

4. Performance

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

5. Future direction

- 5.1. 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.

6. Recommendations

- 6.1. That the Executive Member for Environment and Transport notes the contents of the report and the associated draft Statement of Community Involvement (as set out in accompanying Appendix) and approves a 6 week public consultation on the draft document.
- 6.2. That authority be delegated to the Director of Economy, Transport and Environment to make all appropriate changes in response to the outcomes of the public consultation, in consultation with the Executive Member for Environment and Transport, prior to the submission of the revised Statement of Community Involvement to the County Council for approval.

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

Hampshire safer and more secure for all:	no
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Maximising well-being:	yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Enhancing our quality of place:	yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	

Other Significant Links

Links to previous Member decisions:		
<u>Title</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Date</u>
Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives		
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>	
Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004	<u>2004</u>	
Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2008	27/06/2008	
Localism Act 2011	<u>2011</u>	
	<u>2012</u>	

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. Equality Duty

1.1. The County Council has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Act;
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, gender and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

Due regard in this context involves having due regard in particular to:

- a) The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant characteristic connected to that characteristic;
- b) Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- c) Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

1.2. Equalities Impact Assessment:

This paper seeks approval to consult Hampshire's communities and interested parties on the revisions proposed to the Hampshire Statement of Community Involvement prior to its submission to the County Council for approval. It is considered that the proposal to amend the SCI to bring it in line with statutory requirements will have no impact on groups with protected characteristics, and that the consultation process itself will give opportunity for any unforeseen issues to be raised.

2. Impact on Crime and Disorder:

2.1. No impact.

3. Climate Change:

3.1. How does what is being proposed impact on our carbon footprint / energy consumption? No Impact.

- 3.2. How does what is being proposed consider the need to adapt to climate change, and be resilient to its longer term impacts? No Impacts.