

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE - 15 JUNE 2020)

PART I – NOT DELEGATED

8. LOCAL PLAN: STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT (DCES)

1 Summary

- 1.1 To seek Members' approval to adopt an updated Statement of Community Involvement which provides the Council with an up-to-date commitment to how it will consult on planning policy documents and individual planning applications in line with current legislation and guidance.

2 Details

- 2.1 A Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) is required under Section 18 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004) and must set out how and when the local community can become involved in the preparation of Local Plan documents in consideration of planning applications. The Council must comply with its adopted SCI when preparing its Local Plan and this compliance will be tested when these are independently examined.
- 2.2 This report sets out the minor changes to the Council's current SCI which was adopted in 2017 to take account of changes in legislation and circumstances but does not make any changes to the consultation programme or techniques.
- 2.3 The SCI at Paragraph 2.6 and 2.7 has been updated to show all of the Parish Councils who have worked or are working alongside the Council on their Neighbourhood Plans since 2017 and additional wording has been added to explain the updated process of the Council's role in organising a Neighbourhood Plan examination following a change in legislation.
- 2.4 The Planning Application section at paragraph 5.21 has been changed to include Batchworth Parish Council which was established in 2017 after the SCI was adopted.
- 2.5 Within Appendix 2 of the SCI the Council considers it appropriate to consult with additional Local Planning Authorities in addition to the Duty to Co-operate bodies which are listed in Appendix 1. In April 2020 Chiltern and South Bucks District Councils became part of Buckinghamshire Council which is a new unitary authority made up of Buckinghamshire County Council and the District Councils of South Bucks, Chiltern, Wycombe and Aylesbury Vale. Therefore a minor change has been made to the list of consultation bodies at Appendix 2.

3 Options and Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 The Council is required under Section 18 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004) to produce an up to date SCI. Were the Council not to produce an up to date SCI the Local Plan would risk failing at examination, as such there are no alternative options.

4 Policy/Budget Reference and Implications

- 4.1 The recommendations in this report are within the Council's agreed policy and budgets to prepare a Local Plan.

5 Financial Implications

5.1 None, the work to prepare the action plan has been undertaken by officers and the actions will be implemented by officers as part of their day-to-day duties.

6 Legal Implications

6.1 None specific.

7 Equal Opportunities Implications

7.1 Relevance Test

Has a relevance test been completed for Equality Impact?	No
Did the relevance test conclude a full impact assessment was required?	N/A

8 Staffing Implications

8.1 None, the work to prepare the action plan has been undertaken by officers and the actions will be implemented by officers as part of their day-to-day duties.

9 Customer Services Centre Implications

9.1 The CSC will be briefed to advise on whom to contact regarding the Statement of Community Involvement.

10 Communications and Website Implications

10.1 The Statement of Community Involvement and supporting information will be available on the Council's website.

11 Risk and Health & Safety Implications

11.1 The Council has agreed its risk management strategy which can be found on the website at <http://www.threerivers.gov.uk>. In addition, the risks of the proposals in the report have also been assessed against the Council's duties under Health and Safety legislation relating to employees, visitors and persons affected by our operations. The risk management implications of this report are detailed below.

11.2 The subject of this report is covered by the Economic and Sustainable Development service plan. Any risks resulting from this report will be included in the risk register and, if necessary, managed within this plan.

Nature of Risk	Consequence	Suggested Control Measures	Response <i>(tolerate, treat, terminate, transfer)</i>	Risk Rating <i>(combination of likelihood and impact)</i>
Failing to adopt the updated Statement of	The Local Plan could be found	Terminate	The risk can be avoided by adopting the updated	Medium

Community Involvement	unsound at examination		Statement of Community Involvement	
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11.3 The above risks are scored using the matrix below. The Council has determined its aversion to risk and is prepared to tolerate risks where the combination of impact and likelihood scores 6 or less.

Likelihood Very Likely ----- Remote	Low 4	High 8	Very High 12	Very High 16
	Low 3	Medium 6	High 9	Very High 12
	Low 2	Low 4	Medium 6	High 8
	Low 1	Low 2	Low 3	Low 4
	Impact Low -----> Unacceptable			

Impact Score

4 (Catastrophic)

3 (Critical)

2 (Significant)

1 (Marginal)

Likelihood Score

4 (Very Likely (≥80%))

3 (Likely (21-79%))

2 (Unlikely (6-20%))

1 (Remote (≤5%))

11.4 In the officers' opinion none of the new risks above, were they to come about, would seriously prejudice the achievement of the Strategic Plan and are therefore operational risks. The effectiveness of the management of operational risks is reviewed by the Audit Committee annually.

12 Recommendation

12.1 That the Policy & Resources Committee recommends to Full Council to adopt the amended Statement of Community Involvement at Appendix 1.

Report prepared by: Tori Elliott, Planning Officer

Background Papers

Statement of Community Involvement 2017

Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004)

APPENDICES / ATTACHMENTS

Appendix 1 Statement of Community Involvement 2020