

Surrey Heath Statement of Community Involvement

Summary

This report seeks adoption of the Surrey Heath Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) following consultation.

The SCI sets out how the Council will involve the community and stakeholders in the preparation of the Surrey Heath Local Plan and in the determination of planning applications. Consultation on the SCI took place in November-December 2019 and this report outlines the proposed changes resulting from that consultation.

Portfolio: Planning & People

Date Portfolio Holder signed off report: 28 February 2020

Wards Affected

All

Recommendation

The Executive is advised to resolve:

- i) **To adopt the Council's Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)**

1. Resource Implications

- 1.1 There are no resource implications beyond that provided for within the agreed budget for 2019/20.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 It is a legal requirement for the Council to have an up to date Statement of Community Involvement and to make it available on the website for the public to access.
- 2.2 The current SCI was adopted in 2017. In view of the progression of the Local Plan, it is appropriate to ensure that it is robust and up to date. This is particularly relevant, as at independent Examination of the Local Plan, the Inspector will consider whether the Council has carried out consultation in accordance with the approach set out in the SCI.
- 2.3 The SCI sets out:
 - The statutory background;
 - The purposes of Community Involvement;
 - Requirements and potential methods of public involvement in the preparation of the Local Plan and associated documents;
 - Support for neighbourhood plans;
 - The process for consultation on planning applications.

- 2.4 In September 2019, the Executive agreed to a six-week consultation on the Draft SCI. The consultation took place in November and December 2019.
- 2.5 Following consultation there have been a number of minor changes to the SCI, as follows:
- Page 6, paragraph 1.8 – Add further bullet point: *“Members of the public who do not have access to, or the means to use the Internet.”*
 - Page 9, Table 2 – Amend Table 2 column 2 row 1 to include the following statement: *“Make Local Plan documentation available to view as part of the consultation.”*
 - Page 22, Appendix 1 – Add a footnote reference to The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 for Specific Consultation Bodies and General Consultation Bodies.
 - Page 23, Appendix 1 – Amend title of Local Equality Groups Table to *“Local Equality Groups in Surrey Heath”*.
 - Page 23, Appendix 1 – Amend Local Equality Groups Table to include a section for Gypsy and Traveller Groups. Include within this section the Surrey Gypsy and Traveller Communities Forum.
 - Page 25, Appendix 3 – Add definition for Large Scale Major Development to Glossary of Terms for Community Involvement.
 - Page 27, Appendix 3 – Add definition for Small Scale Major Development to Glossary of Terms for Community Involvement.
- 2.6 The Local Plan Working Group considered the revised SCI including post consultation amendments at the 10 February 2020 meeting and had no further suggested changes to make.

3. Options

- 3.1 The options for the Executive to consider are:-
- (i) To **AGREE** to adopt the updated Statement of Community Involvement.
 - (ii) To **NOT AGREE** to adopt the updated Statement of Community Involvement.

4. Proposals

- 4.1 It is proposed the Executive adopt the Statement of Community Involvement. This is to ensure compliance with the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended).

5. Corporate Objectives And Key Priorities

5.1 The SCI supports the objective for Place and People through engagement with local communities on planning matters.

6. Policy Framework

6.1 The SCI, on adoption, will support the preparation of the Local Plan and associated documents and the Development Management process and will therefore have implications for future local community engagement.

7. Legal Issues

7.1 It is a legal requirement for the Council to prepare an SCI.

8. Consultation

8.1 The draft SCI was subject to public consultation in accordance with Regulation 26 of the Town and Country Planning Regulations (Local Development) (England) 2004 (as amended) following agreement by the Executive. The consultation ran from Tuesday 5th November until Tuesday 17th December 2019. A Statement of Consultation has been prepared is attached at Appendix 2 of this report.

Annexes	Appendix 1: Revised Surrey Heath Statement of Community Involvement Appendix 2: Statement of Consultation for the SCI.
Background Papers	None
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