

STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

**AGENDA
ITEM NO**

13 SEPTEMBER 2018

9

Report Title	STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT
Purpose of Report	To agree a draft Statement of Community Involvement for public consultation.
Decision(s)	Committee resolves to:- 1. Approve the draft Statement of Community Involvement (Appendix A) for the purposes of public consultation
Consultation and Feedback	There has been internal consultation within relevant departments and discussions held at Planning Review Panel. The draft Statement of Community Involvement has been amended to take account of points raised.
Financial Implications and Risk Assessment	There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. Adele Rudkin, Accountant Adele.rudkin@stroud.gov.uk There are risks associated with not reviewing and updating the current Statement of Community Involvement in terms of complying with national legislation and guidance relating to the preparation of the Local Plan and determining planning applications.
Legal Implications	Local Planning Authorities must produce a Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) which sets out the Council's policy for consulting and engaging with individuals, communities and other stakeholders both in the preparation and revision of local development documents and development control decisions. From 6 th April 2018 the SCI must be reviewed every five years starting with the date of adoption of the SCI. There is a legal duty on local planning authorities to engage constructively and any consultation undertaken must be adequate and fair. Legal advice on any updated or amended strategy resulting from the process will be provided as appropriate and required. Craig Hallett, Solicitor & Deputy Monitoring Officer Tel: 01453 754364 Email: craig.hallett@stroud.gov.uk R20.08D28.08C21.08

Report Author	Mark Russell, Planning Strategy Manager Tel: 01453 754305 Email: Mark.Russell@stroud.gov.uk
Options	Options are: 1. approve the draft Statement of Community Involvement for public consultation; or 2. amend the draft Statement of Community Involvement for public consultation, or 3. delay the draft Statement of Community Involvement for further internal discussion.
Performance Management Follow Up	The results of public consultation on the draft document will be reported to both Planning Review Panel and Environment Committee.
Background Papers/ Appendices	Appendix A – Draft Statement of Community Involvement

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Section 18 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires local planning authorities to produce a Statement of Community Involvement (SCI), which should explain how they will engage local communities and other interested parties in producing their Local Plan and determining planning applications. The Statement of Community Involvement should be published on the local planning authority's website.
- 1.2 The Council first adopted an SCI in November 2007. The SCI was subsequently amended in March 2009 to refer to electronic communication. However, subsequent changes to national planning policy and the constitution of the Council now require a new SCI to be prepared.

2. CONTENTS

- 2.1 The document sets out Stroud District Council's strategy for community involvement in the planning process. It sets out the ways in which we will inform, engage and consult people when we are formulating planning policies and considering planning applications and how we will give feed back to the community on the results.
- 2.2 The section on preparing the Local Plan and other policy documents sets out which specific and general consultation bodies, as defined in planning legislation, we will consult with, including references to the central role parish councils play in local communities and to the need to vary traditional consultation methods to engage with hard to reach groups. The section also sets out the variety of methods and techniques we will use to reach the intended audience and at what stage in the preparation of the relevant document we will use them.

- 2.3 The section on community involvement in the planning application process sets out the Council's approach to publicising and consulting on proposals at various stages in the process when a planning application has been received and validated, at the planning decision stage, and if an appeal is submitted. The approach highlights the role that the Public Access system can play in providing customer 'self-service' opportunities for information and to assist with making comments.

3. NEXT STEPS

- 3.1 The draft SCI will be subject to public consultation for eight weeks commencing w/c 22 October and ending w/c 17 December 2018. The following activities are proposed during that time:
- Press release
 - Emails to groups and individuals on Planning Strategy mailing list
 - Consultation paper and supporting documents on website
 - On-line questionnaire via website
 - Consultation paper at deposit points
- 3.2 The results of public consultation will help inform the final version of the SCI which will be considered at a future meeting of Environment Committee.