

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

DISTRICT PLANNING EXECUTIVE PANEL – 25 JULY 2013

REPORT BY EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR STRATEGIC PLANNING
AND TRANSPORT

STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT (SCI): PROPOSED
ADOPTION OF DOCUMENT FOLLOWING PUBLIC CONSULTATION

WARD(S) AFFECTED: ALL

Purpose/Summary of Report

- This report details the results of the Council’s public consultation on its Draft Statement of Community Involvement and seeks agreement to adopt a revised document.

<u>RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DISTRICT PLANNING EXECUTIVE PANEL AND EXECUTIVE:</u> That:	
(A)	the responses to the public consultation be noted and the Officer responses and proposed changes to the Draft East Herts Statement of Community Involvement be supported;
(B)	the East Herts Statement of Community Involvement, 2013 be supported for adoption.
<u>RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COUNCIL:</u> That:	
(A)	the responses to the public consultation be noted and the Officer responses and proposed changes to the Draft East Herts Statement of Community Involvement be agreed; and
(B)	the East Herts Statement of Community Involvement, 2013 be adopted.

1.0 Background

1.1 A Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) sets out how a local authority intends to involve the community in the preparation, alteration or review of local planning policies or in determining

planning applications. Under the terms of the Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended), local planning authorities must prepare a Statement of Community Involvement.

1.2 Members will recall that public consultation on a Draft SCI for a period of six weeks was agreed at Council on 6th March 2013. The consultation subsequently took place between 21st March and 5pm on 2nd May 2013.

2.0 Report

2.1 The need for SCI preparation is set out in the Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended). Section 18 defines a local planning authority's SCI "as a statement of their policy for involving interested parties in matters relating to development in their area. The statement will apply to the preparation and revision of LDDs [*Local Development Documents*] and to the exercise of the authority's functions in relation to development control".

2.2 Section 19 further sets out the requirements for preparing LDDs. ... "Once the authority have adopted their statement of community involvement they must comply with it in preparing any local development document".

2.3 In light of various legislative changes since the Council's previous SCI was prepared (but not subsequently adopted due to procedural timing issues in 2007), a draft revised SCI was prepared and agreed by Full Council for public consultation purposes on 6th March. The public consultation subsequently took place between 21st March 2013 and 5pm on 2nd May 2013.

2.4 A total of 23 responses were received from 20 respondents in relation to the consultation. Ten of the responses related solely to requests to be advised of the adoption of the document when it occurs.

2.5 Of the remaining 13 responses, the matters raised in these submissions are included in a schedule which is attached at **Essential Reference Paper 'B'**. This includes summaries of the main issues raised (which may have been made by one or more respondent); the Officer responses to those issues; and proposed amendments to the SCI, where appropriate. A few responses related to more than one matter; hence more issues are summarised in the schedule than correlate with the number of individual responses received.

- 2.6 A number of matters raised were not specifically related to the content of the consultation document and concerned areas beyond the scope of the SCI. While these matters have been included in the schedule they have not resulted in any recommended changes to the document.
- 2.7 However, several representations suggested amendments that would add value to the SCI either in terms of factual content or for clarification of the proposed text. For these cases, proposed amendments to the document have been suggested in the schedule.
- 2.8 An additional suggested amendment has been made to the draft SCI in that the final sentence of paragraph 5.3.1 regarding applicants' consultation documents has been duplicated at the end of paragraph 5.2.1 for consistency across all types of application.
- 2.9 It should be noted that, following advice contained in a DCLG letter to Chief Planning Officers, dated 30 March 2011, the SCI is able to proceed straight to adoption "without being submitted to the Secretary of State for examination" by the Council.
- 2.10 Therefore, a revised SCI document which takes into account the proposed amendments detailed above, is attached at **Essential Reference Paper 'C'** and agreement to adopt the document is now sought.
- 2.11 Members are therefore invited to agree the Officer responses to the issues raised as part of the public consultation; the proposed changes to the draft SCI; and adoption of the final document.
- 3.0 Implications/Consultations
- 3.1 Information on any corporate issues and consultation associated with this report can be found within **Essential Reference Paper 'A'**.

Background Papers

Statement of Community Involvement (SCI): Draft Document for Public Consultation – Report to District Planning Executive Panel 21st February 2013

<http://online.eastherts.gov.uk/moderngov/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIId=151&MIId=2211&Ver=4>

Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended)
http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2004/5/pdfs/ukpga_20040005_en.pdf

Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2012/767/contents/made>

Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2012
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2012/2613/contents/made>

Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2012/637/contents/made>

DCLG letter to Chief Planning Officers, dated 30 March 2011
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/8004/110330-Letter_to_Chief_Planning_Officers_Preparation_and_Monitoring_of_Local_Plans.pdf

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