

Report to Planning Committee

Subject: Statement of Community Involvement September 2019

Date: 02/10/2019

Purpose

To inform Members that the Statement of Community Involvement has been revised and was adopted by Cabinet at its meeting on the 5th September 2019.

Recommendation

THAT:

- 1) Members note the attached revised Statement of Community Involvement 2019.**

Background

- 1.1 It is a legal requirement for Gedling Borough to have in place a Statement of Community Involvement setting out the Council's policy for involving people in the preparation of development plans and for consulting people on planning applications. Gedling Borough Council adopted its first Statement of Community Involvement in October 2006 with a revised version being adopted in 2014.
- 1.2 The Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) has been revised in order to reflect recent changes to the planning system. In particular there is a requirement for the Council to include its policy on supporting neighbourhood plan making in the Borough. Revisions are also required to reflect current good practice. It is also opportune to revise the SCI at this time as the review of the Aligned Core Strategy (ACS) adopted in 2014 has commenced with a consultation on an issues and options document planned to take place in the near future. It has also been changed in the light of comments made on a consultation draft version made available earlier this year (see below). The revised SCI is attached as **Appendix A**. The new text included to reflect changes made since the previous 2014 version of the SCI are underlined for convenience. The recommendation is to note the contents of the revised SCI document.
- 1.3 The draft SCI document was subject to consultation between 29th May and 28th June 2019. A number of comments have been received. A summary of the comments and the Council's response is attached as **Appendix B**. The revisions will continue to ensure that the level consultation to be carried out will meet or exceed the minimum statutory requirements set

out by government.

2 Proposal

- 2.1 The revised SCI is attached as **Appendix A** and Members are asked to note the content of the document.
- 2.2 Respondents made a number of comments including some which were supportive in nature. Certain comments related to general planning matters such as the decision making process, environmental protections and developer contributions as opposed to seeking changes to the document. General comments included the need to avoid jargon and to explain certain terms. This point is accepted and unnecessary jargon has therefore been removed and other terms defined in a glossary. Consultees requested that certain sections of the text (as it relates to early engagement and the streamlining of the local plan) reflect more fully the wording in the National Planning Policy Guidance and this has also been accepted.
- 2.3 Other more specific comments have led to changes in the document and the changes are set out in the Council's response to the individual comments. The schedule also sets out reasons why other comments seeking changes have not been accepted. In summary, the consultation has led to a number of changes to the SCI and as stated above the SCI will continue to set out a level of consultation which meets or exceeds the minimum legal requirements.

3 Alternative Options

- 3.1 One alternative option is to rely on the existing adopted SCI (2014). However, this is not up to date and does not reflect the latest government guidance. It would also be timely to adopt a revised document in time to be used for the planned ACS review issues and options consultation.

4 Financial Implications

- 4.1 None.

5 Appendices

- 5.1 Appendix A - Gedling Borough Statement of Community Involvement August 2019
- 5.2 Appendix B – Summary of comments made on the draft Statement of Community Involvement May 2019 and the Council's response.

6 Background Papers

- 6.1 None

7 Reasons for Recommendations

- 7.1 To note the Gedling Borough revised Statement of Community Involvement 2019