

**DRAFT CAMBRIDGESHIRE STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT (SCI)**

*To:* **Economy and Environment Committee**

*Meeting Date:* **13 September 2018**

*From:* **Executive Director Place & Economy**

*Electoral division(s):* **All**

*Forward Plan ref:* **Not applicable**      *Key decision:* **No**

*Purpose:* **To consider the draft Cambridgeshire Statement of Community Involvement 2018 which sets out how the community can be involved in mineral and waste land use planning activities undertaken by the County Council in its role as the Mineral and Waste Planning Authority.**

*Recommendation:* **Members are asked to:**

- Approve the draft Cambridgeshire Statement of Community Involvement (Appendix 1 of this report) for the purpose of public consultation commencing in autumn 2018.**
- Delegate to the Executive Director, Place and Economy in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee, the authority to make any minor non-consequential amendments to the consultation document attached, prior to consultation.**

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## **1. BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 The County Council is required to have a Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) which sets out how stakeholders, including the local community, district and parish councils, and statutory consultees, can participate in the land use planning processes which are undertaken by the County Council in its role as the Mineral and Waste, and County Planning Authority.
- 1.2 This Council's current SCI was approved in 2014 and has to be reviewed no less than every 5 years, as required by The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2017. This review will ensure that a new SCI is in place by 2019, and that the Regulations have been complied with.

## **2. MAIN ISSUES**

- 2.1 The draft SCI covers the following land use planning activities:
  - The preparation of mineral and waste planning policy (local plan, supplementary planning documents);
  - The preparation of the Local Enforcement Plan; and
  - The determination of the planning applications for mineral and waste management development; and the County Council's own development proposals.
- 2.2 The draft SCI sets out who, and how, we will consult on the above activities. It also tells people how they can engage with Members, and the democratic processes of the Council. This includes how to find their local Member, attendance at meetings, and the right to speak e.g. Planning Committee, and petitions.
- 2.3 Land use planning processes are a statutory function, and as such are undertaken in accordance with the relevant legislation and regulations. The draft SCI reflects these requirements which govern who must be consulted, for how long, and by what means. For example, the community involvement that must take place when the Council is preparing new planning policy or determining planning applications. However, it also includes additional consultation measures; and does not preclude the Council undertaking further additional community involvement (above that set out in the SCI), if it is appropriate. In proposing the level of community involvement set out in the draft SCI regard has also been had to nature of the work being undertaken; and to the level of resources (including staff) available.
- 2.4 The current SCI sets out how the community will be involved in the preparation of a new SCI (this document), and as an approved policy of its Council which reflects statutory requirements, this process has to be followed. Therefore the draft SCI must be subject to six weeks public consultation, and all general and specific consultees (which are defined in legislation and also outlined in Appendix 1 of the draft SCI) must be consulted. This will include all statutory consultees, and all district and parish councils in and adjoining Cambridgeshire. It will also include a wide range of stakeholders such as the mineral and waste management industry, and interest groups such as the RSPB, and wildlife groups. Members of the public are also able to comment. If agreed, consultation will take place in autumn / winter 2018.
- 2.5 Following public consultation on the draft SCI, representations will be considered, and

reported together with a final proposed SCI; which will have been amended as necessary to take account of the representations made during the public consultation. It is anticipated that this revised final proposed SCI and a statement of representations will be considered by the Economy and Environment Committee in early 2019.

### **3. ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PRIORITIES**

#### **3.1 Developing the local economy for the benefit of all**

When approved the SCI will set out how robust consultation will take place in land use planning processes, including local plans which make provision for the future supply of mineral and waste management facilities; and in the determination of development proposals, which in turn will benefit the local economy.

#### **3.2 Helping people live healthy and independent lives**

There are no significant implications for this priority.

#### **3.3 Supporting and protecting vulnerable people**

There are no significant implications for this priority.

### **4. SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS**

#### **4.1 Resource Implications**

The approved SCI will commit the Council to continue undertaking community involvement which will require funding. The majority of the activities outlined in the SCI are required by legislation or regulations and the costs are already reflected in the existing budgets.

#### **4.2 Procurement/Contractual/Council Contract Procedure Rules Implications**

There are no significant implications for this priority.

#### **4.3 Statutory, Legal and Risk Implications**

The approved SCI will assist in ensuring that land use planning processes are undertaken in line with statutory requirements and that related decisions are legally robust. This will reduce the risk of legal challenge.

#### **4.4 Equality and Diversity Implications**

The County Council has a statutory duty to undertake consultation, which includes consulting with bodies which represent different racial, ethnic, disabled, religious bodies etc. (See Appendix 1 of the draft SCI).

#### **4.5 Engagement and Communications Implications**

This document sets out proposals for public consultation in respect of activities undertaken by the Council in its role as County, Minerals and Waste Planning Authority. This SCI will itself be subject to 6 weeks public consultation; the results of which will be reported to, and taken into account by, this Committee when considering the final version of the SCI.

#### **4.6 Localism and Local Member Involvement**

This SCI sets out how the local community can engage with County Councillors and the democratic decision making process of the Council (see Section 1 Part 5 of the draft SCI).

#### **4.7 Public Health Implications**

The SCI will ensure that public health bodies will be consulted as appropriate on land use planning activities. (See Appendix 1 of the draft SCI)

<b>Implications</b>	<b>Officer Clearance</b>
<b>Have the resource implications been cleared by Finance?</b>	Yes Name of Financial Officer: Sarah Heyward
<b>Have the procurement/contractual/ Council Contract Procedure Rules implications been cleared by the LGSS Head of Procurement?</b>	Yes Name of Officer: Paul White
<b>Has the impact on statutory, legal and risk implications been cleared by LGSS Law?</b>	Yes Name of Legal Officer: Debbie Carter-Hughes
<b>Have the equality and diversity implications been cleared by your Service Contact?</b>	Yes Name of Officer: Tamar Oviatt-Ham

<b>Have any engagement and communication implications been cleared by Communications?</b>	Yes Name of Officer: Joanne Shilton
<b>Have any localism and Local Member involvement issues been cleared by your Service Contact?</b>	Yes Name of Officer: Tamar Oviatt-Ham
<b>Have any Public Health implications been cleared by Public Health</b>	Yes Name of Officer: Stuart Keeble

### **SOURCE DOCUMENTS GUIDANCE**

<b>Source Documents</b>	<b>Location</b>
None	