



## DECISION ITEM

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DIRECTORATE	PLANNING COMMITTEE	3 JUNE 2020	9
<b>FYLDE STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT (SCI)</b>			

### PUBLIC ITEM

This item is for consideration in the public part of the meeting.

### SUMMARY

The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires the local planning authority to prepare a 'Statement of Community Involvement' (SCI). The SCI details the parties to be consulted, and the manner of consultation, both during the process of determining planning applications, and in formulating Development Plans. The current Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) was adopted on the 11<sup>th</sup> March 2020.

The SCI is a key document that sets out the Council's approach to consultation on Local Plan Reviews, Supplementary Planning Documents, Neighbourhood Plans and planning applications.

The report sets out some proposed amendments to the SCI. The amendments will ensure that the consultation process is not constrained by the wording in the SCI and will allow consultations to be carried out providing they are conducted in accordance with the relevant Regulations.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the Planning Committee agrees to adopt the amended Statement of Community Involvement (SCI).

### SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS DECISIONS

The 2020 Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) was adopted by the Council on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2020.

The 2015 Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) was adopted by the Council on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2016.

Fylde Council's initial Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) was adopted by the Council in July 2007. Due to changes in legislation an updated version of the SCI was approved in September 2011.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES	
Spending your money in the most efficient way to achieve excellent services ( <b>Value for Money</b> )	✓
Delivering the services that customers expect of an excellent council ( <b>Clean and Green</b> )	✓
Working with all partners ( <b>Vibrant Economy</b> )	✓
To make sure Fylde continues to be one of the most desirable places to live ( <b>A Great Place to Live</b> )	✓
Promoting Fylde as a great destination to visit ( <b>A Great Place to Visit</b> )	✓

## REPORT

1. The Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) demonstrates Fylde Council's commitment to engage with local people and other stakeholders on planning issues. It sets out how the Council are going to consult on the other documents that will make up the Development Plan. It provides a structured approach to engaging with local people and organisations across the Fylde Borough in the preparation of planning policy documents and the determination of planning applications.
2. With regard to the consultation process, the current SCI states that consultation documents will be made available on the Council's website and hard copies will be available at the Council offices, in public libraries and any other appropriate deposit points. Since the adoption of the current SCI in March, the country has encountered an unprecedented situation of lockdown as a result of the Covid19 pandemic, in which all public buildings have been closed and are consequently inaccessible to members of the public.
3. Therefore, the wording in the current SCI limits the circumstances in which a document could be put out for consultation. Additionally, Planning Practice Guidance, updated on the 13 May 2020, states that where any of the policies in the SCI cannot be complied with due to the current guidance to combat the spread of Covid19, the Local Planning Authority is encouraged to make an immediate review to update the policies where necessary so that plan making can continue.
4. Regulation 35 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 states that "a consultation document is to be taken to be made available by a local planning authority when: a) made available for inspection, at their principal office and at such other places within their area as the local planning authority consider appropriate, and b) published on the local planning authorities website".
5. The only changes that are proposed to this document are for the five occasions in the text where it says that as part of the consultation process the Council will be "making the consultation document available on the council's website, hard copies available at the Council offices, public libraries and other appropriate deposit points". In these five places, it is proposed that the text should be amended to say: "making the consultation document available in accordance with the relevant regulations". Additionally, the date on the front cover, if agreed, will be altered from March 2020 to June 2020.
6. By changing the SCI to acknowledge that consultation documents will be made available in accordance with the relevant Regulations, the Council will be able to carry out a consultation in line with any amended Regulations introduced in the current period of uncertainty caused by Covid19 and also continue to carry out consultation in the event of any future changes to Regulations which may occur once the Covid19 pandemic is over.
7. For this reason, a number of amendments to the March 2020 SCI are considered necessary to reflect the changes in guidance with respect to SCIs that have occurred in response to the Covid 19 pandemic and take into account any future changes to the Regulations. It is important to note that although the guidance on SCIs has been updated, the Regulations have not yet changed. If the Regulations are amended to remove the need to put hard copies on deposit, lawful consultations will be able to go ahead, in accordance with the SCI, without having to amend the SCI again.

## NEXT STEPS

Subject to approval by the Planning Committee it is proposed that the amended Fylde Statement of Community Involvement will be adopted with effect from the 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2020.

IMPLICATIONS	
Finance	There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.
Legal	Production of an SCI is a legal requirement.
Community Safety	None
Human Rights and Equalities	The SCI sets out what can be expected from the consultation process.

Sustainability and Environmental Impact	None
Health & Safety and Risk Management	None

BACKGROUND PAPERS		
Name of document	Date	Where available for inspection
Fylde Statement of Community Involvement	3 <sup>rd</sup> June 2020	Council's website

LEAD AUTHOR	CONTACT DETAILS	DATE
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Attached documents:

Appendix 1: Review of Fylde Statement of Community Involvement (June 2020)