

**Committee:** LDF Working Group

**Agenda Item**

**Date:** 8 March 2013

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**Title:** Statement of Community Involvement

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### **Summary**

1. The Council's Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) has been updated in line with new Government legislation.

### **Recommendations**

2. To seek agreement to the changes proposed to the SCI and approval to commence a period of consultation on the proposed changes.

### **Financial Implications**

3. None:

### **Background Papers**

4. There are no background papers.

### **Impact**

- 5.

Communication/Consultation	Once the updated SCI has been approved the Council will go out on consultation where all statutory consultees will be consulted with and the document will be available to view on the Council's website.
Community Safety	N/A
Equalities	SCI ensures minority groups are consulted and can get involved in the plan process.
Health and Safety	N/A
Human Rights/Legal Implications	N/A
Sustainability	N/A
Ward-specific impacts	All

Workforce/Workplace	N/A
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## Situation

6. The Council adopted its Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) in July 2006. This document sets out the Council's approach to public consultation and involvement in the preparation of the Local Plan, other development plan documents and in the determination of planning applications.
7. It is necessary to review the SCI due to changes in national legislation and planning guidance and progress on the Local Plan.
8. The key changes to the SCI are as follows:
  - Plan making – Following the introduction of the NPPF in 2012 and the new Local Plan Regulations future Development Plan Documents should be prepared as a single Local Plan rather than a series of separate documents as under the previous Local Development Framework system. The text within the SCI has been amended to reflect these changes.
  - Localism Act – Since adoption of the SCI in 2006 the Localism Act 2011 has been enacted and has introduced Neighbourhood Development Plans which enable local communities to plan for future development in their area, so long as their plan is in conformity with the Council's Local Plan. The Localism Act also introduced the Duty to Cooperate which requires planning authorities and other public bodies to actively engage and work jointly on strategic matters. This legislation is mentioned in the SCI update.
  - Methods of Consultation – some of the methods of consultation mentioned in the Adopted 2006 SCI have been amended to reflect how the Council carries out consultation now, such as less reliance on hard copy documents and encouraging the use of the Council's on-line consultation portal, Objective.
9. As there is no statutory requirements regarding SCI consultation it is proposed that the updated SCI will undergo a consultation which will involve notifying all statutory consultees and adjoining district, town and parish councils via email/letter of the consultation period and putting a notice on the Council's website. The consultation period will run for 6 weeks.
10. Following consultation the revised SCI will go to Cabinet for approval.
11. The proposed updated version of the SCI forms Appendix A to this report.

## Risk Analysis

12.

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
It is important to ensure that the right balance of consultation is achieved. Too little may result in little meaningful input from our community and potentially the production of a document that does not meet the legal requirements.	1.Little	The Local Plan and Development Plan Documents do not have sufficient consultation, and therefore do not meet the current regulations.	Approve the SCI update.

1 = Little or no risk or impact

2 = Some risk or impact – action may be necessary.

3 = Significant risk or impact – action required

4 = Near certainty of risk occurring, catastrophic effect or failure of project.