

Committee:	Cabinet	Date:
Title:	Statement of Community Involvement and Community Engagement Strategy	Tuesday, 9 March 2021
Portfolio Holder:	Councillor J Evans, Portfolio Holder for Planning and the Local Plan	
Report Author:	Sarah Nicholas, New Communities Senior Planning Officer snicholas@uttlesford.gov.uk	Key Decision: No

Summary

1. The Statement of Community Involvement and the Community Engagement Strategy were published for consultation from the 28th October until the 9 December. Appendix 1 set out the comments received, officer comment and recommended changes. Appendices 2 and 3 are the final Statement of Community Involvement and Community Engagement Strategy for approval.
2. The proposed changes were considered by Scrutiny (Local Plan) on 16th February. Considering the comments and recommendations of the committee further changes have been made.

Recommendations

3. That Cabinet consider the comments and proposed changes to the Statement of Community Involvement and the Community Engagement Strategy and approve the documents for publication and use.

Financial Implications

4. The approved budget for the Local Plan in 2020-21 includes sufficient provision for the work needed through to the end of March. Adequate provision will need to be made in preparing the budget for 2021-22 in the revised Medium-Term Financial Strategy.

Background Papers

5. The following papers were referred to by the author in the preparation of this report and are available for inspection from the author of the report.

None

Impact

- 6.

Communication/Consultation	The documents have been subject to a period of consultation
Community Safety	n/a
Equalities	The documents support methods of consultation such that all groups can be involved in consultation processes.
Health and Safety	n/a
Human Rights/Legal Implications	n/a
Sustainability	n/a
Ward-specific impacts	n/a
Workforce/Workplace	n/a

Situation

7. On 20th October 2020, Cabinet approved the publication for consultation of the Statement of Community Involvement and the Community Engagement Strategy.
8. The consultation ran from 28th October to 9 December 2020. 270 emails were sent to all statutory consultees which comprises specific, general and other bodies and includes all Town and Parish Council informing them of the consultation. Ten representations were received. Although this is a low response it is comparable to previous consultations when there were 13 in 2017 and 6 in 2019.
9. Appendix 1 is the report of consultation. It sets out the comments received and officer comment and recommendation for each document.
10. The proposed changes to the Statement of Community Involvement improve the clarity of the document. Following Scrutiny (Local Plan) further changes were made - making the glossary more prominent; improving the clarity to paragraphs 1.1, 1.6 and 5.13-5.14 and adding a new paragraph at 6.4 setting out the Council's expectations from applicants of major developments on community engagement.
11. The proposed changes to the Community Engagement Strategy include improving the clarity, inserting a new paragraph 6.11 on other engagement taking place during the First Consultation (Issues and Options stage); reference to Neighbourhood Plan Steering Groups within working with Key Groups; two new appendices on the governance structure for preparing the Local Plan and ground rules for meeting with developers.

12. Appendix 2 is the Statement of Community Involvement incorporating the proposed changes.

13. Appendix 3 is the Community Engagement Strategy incorporating the proposed changes.

Risk Analysis

14.

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
If the Council does not have an up to date SCI and has not carried out consultation in accordance with the Regulations and the Statement of Community Involvement the Local Plan could be found to have failed the legal compliance test at examination.	2	4 – The Council could be required to undertake additional periods of consultation and resubmit the Plan	Ensure an up-to-date SCI is adopted and implemented, supported by a Community Engagement Strategy.

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.