

## **REPORT TO PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR INFRASTRUCTURE**

### **REVIEW OF STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

**9 OCTOBER 2025**

Local Planning Authorities are required to produce a Statement of Community Involvement under section 18 (Part 1) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended).

A Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) sets out how the Council will consult the community, business and other organisations with an interest in the development of the District so that they can engage with the planning system.

A review of the SCI is required every five years. The current SCI was approved in September 2020. Therefore, the SCI has been reviewed and amended (copy attached). The key changes to the current SCI are:

- Removal of an addendum produced in 2020 in view of the then Covid pandemic;
- Some amendments to the structure of the document so that they read and flow better;
- Removal of explanatory text which is not considered to be necessary as it can be found elsewhere. For example:
  - an explanation about the roles of national policy or Sustainability Appraisal or the role of councillors in planning,
  - references to the Strategic Growth Plan as this is not governed by the SCI:
  - detailed information about the examination process as these are outside of the SCI which is concerned with plans produced by the Council;
- The section on Neighbourhood Plans is simplified as these are not the Council's responsibility to prepare;
- Removal of an explanation of local plans and development management;
- The inclusion of information about how people can be added to the Council's database for consulting on local plans;
- Additional section regarding Enforcement;
- Removal of duplication;
- Updated information in appendices regarding which bodies are consulted on planning matters;
- Removal of appendix regarding the stages of the Local Plan process as largely repeats what is included in the main text.

Unlike other planning documents it is not necessary to consult on the suggested changes as set out in the National Planning Practice Guidance which states "There is no requirement for local planning authorities to consult when reviewing and updating their Statement of Community Involvement."<sup>1</sup>

### **RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT THE UPDATED STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT BE PUBLISHED ON THE COUNCIL'S WEBSITE**

---

<sup>1</sup> Paragraph: 035 Reference ID: 61-035-20190723