

## Planning Committee - 20 July 2022

<b>Title of paper:</b>	Draft Statement of Community Involvement	
<b>Director(s)/ Corporate Director(s):</b>	Paul Seddon, Director of Planning and Regeneration	<b>Wards affected:</b> All
<b>Report author(s) and contact details:</b>	Karen Shaw, Local Plans Manager karen.shaw@nottinghamcity.gov.uk	
<b>Other colleagues who have provided input:</b>	Steve Ryder, Planning Officer Peter McAnespie, Partnership and Local Plans Manager Matt Gregory, Head of Planning Strategy and Building Control	
<b>Date of consultation with Portfolio Holder(s) (if relevant)</b>	13 June 2022	
<b>Relevant Council Plan Key Theme:</b>		
Nottingham People		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Living in Nottingham		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Growing Nottingham		<input type="checkbox"/>
Respect for Nottingham		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Serving Nottingham Better		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Summary of issues (including benefits to citizens/service users):</b>		
<p>As a requirement of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, the City Council must prepare a Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) for planning applications and planning documents, setting out how the Council will involve the local community and other interested parties when carrying out its planning functions.</p> <p>The draft SCI replaces the SCI previously adopted by the Council in November 2019, as well as the June 2020 Interim SCI which contained temporary amendments in response to the restrictions associated with the COVID 19 pandemic.</p> <p>The draft Statement of Community Involvement largely includes many of the pre-Covid consultation techniques as well as links to the Community Engagement Guide, which sets out the city's ambitious aspirations regarding public involvement in design and planning processes.</p> <p>In accordance with Article 10 of the Constitution, the draft SCI has been approved by the Portfolio Holder for Leisure, Culture and Planning as a draft for consultation.</p>		
<b>Recommendation(s):</b>		
<b>1</b>	That Planning Committee notes the Draft Statement of Community Involvement (appended to this report), and makes comments as it feels appropriate, to feed into the consultation period.	

### 1 Reasons for recommendations

- 1.1 There is a legal requirement on the Council to carry out public consultation on planning policy documents, which include the Local Plan, Supplementary Planning Documents

and Neighbourhood Plans, and on planning applications. It is important this is undertaken in a cost-effective, efficient and proportionate manner.

- 1.2 Section 18 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) requires local planning authorities to produce a Statement of Community Involvement (SCI), which should explain how they will engage local communities and other interested parties in producing their Local Plan and determining planning applications.
- 1.3 A SCI provides clarity on the extent of community involvement that will take place. It sets out clear consultation procedures and minimum standards the Council will follow. Essentially, a SCI states whom the Council will consult with, how they will be consulted, and when.

## **2 Background (including outcomes of consultation)**

- 2.1 A new SCI is being developed to replace the SCI previously adopted by the Council in November 2019, as well as the June 2020 Interim SCI which contained temporary amendments in response to the restrictions associated with the COVID 19 pandemic.
- 2.2 The draft Statement of Community Involvement largely includes many of the pre-Covid consultation techniques as well as links to the Community Engagement Guide, which sets out the city's ambitious aspirations regarding public involvement in design and planning processes.
- 2.3 In accordance with Article 10 of the Constitution, the draft SCI has been approved by the Portfolio Holder for Leisure, Culture and Planning as a draft for consultation.
- 2.4 The SCI will be subject to the same consultation procedures as draft Supplementary Planning Documents, i.e. a 6-week formal consultation stage, the results of which will help shape the final document.
- 2.5 The draft SCI can be considered to be a protocol on how the City Council will consult on Planning Applications and planning documents in the future. It provides a clear vision, based upon the principle of inclusive engagement for community involvement. The approach is developed from the starting point of statutory requirements set out in regulations, and the plan includes a clear framework of consultation techniques for each stage of local development document production.
- 2.6 The draft SCI identifies an extensive range of existing organisations, forums, links, bodies, other stakeholders and government departments for consultation. Guidance is provided on the accessibility of planning information and documents, the process of monitoring these documents and the means and opportunity for interested parties to provide feedback.
- 2.7 The draft SCI also reflects on the impact and challenges that the Covid-19 pandemic and national lockdown measures had on usual consultation techniques and practices set out in the document. The plan acknowledges that in such similar circumstances a flexible approach will be adopted to best meet the needs of the community within the prevailing circumstances.

### **3 Other options considered in making recommendations**

3.1 It is a statutory requirement to prepare a SCI document and keep it up-to-date.

### **4 Finance colleague comments (including implications and value for money/VAT)**

4.1 Nottingham City Council Planning department requires community input to support the Local Plan and ensure that the City Council's development ambitions are met, Therefore the statement of community involvement is required. This is a continuation of service with no attached cost, Therefore will have no impact on the MTFP. However this will still be monitored by the service for any variance and reflected in the monthly forecast for the service.

Advice provided by Paul Rogers (Commercial Finance Business Partner (G&D)) on 07/06/2022.

### **5 Legal and Procurement colleague comments (including risk management issues, and legal, Crime and Disorder Act and procurement implications)**

5.1 There is a statutory duty on the Council to publish a Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) and this is an Executive Function. The Portfolio Holder has authorised the release of the draft SCI for consultation under Article 10 of the Constitution but Article 9 allows for Planning Committee to be consulted and make comments on the draft as part of the statutory consultation process.

Advice provided by Ann Barrett (Team Leader) on 05/072022.

### **6 Strategic Assets & Property colleague comments (for decision relating to all property assets and associated infrastructure)**

6.1 Not applicable.

### **7 Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)**

7.1 The EIA is attached as Appendix 2. The EIA has been received and quality checked by EDI team.

Advice provided by Saema Mohammad (Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Lead) on 06/06/2022.

### **8 List of background papers other than published works or those disclosing confidential or exempt information**

8.1 None.

### **9 Published documents referred to in compiling this report**

9.1 None.