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| Policy, Finance and Development Committee | Tuesday, 05 December 2023 | Matter for Decision |
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Report Title: **Revised Draft Statement of Community Involvement**

Report Author(s): **Lisa Chevallereau (Planning Policy and Monitoring Officer)**

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| Purpose of Report: | The purpose of this report is to seek Committee's approval to publicly consult on a revised Statement of Community Involvement for an 8 week period. |
| Report Summary: | <p>The Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) sets out the Borough Council's approach to involving and consulting local people and stakeholders in planning process, more specifically the preparation of the various components of the Local Plan and in making development management decisions on planning applications.</p> <p>The consultation practices contained in the SCI satisfy the statutory requirements set out in the relevant legislation.</p> <p>The Council will always seek to exceed the statutory requirements, where appropriate, to ensure wide and inclusive consultation to reflect local circumstances, the character and composition of the local community, and the resources available. This extends to those groups who have traditionally find it more difficult to engage in the planning process.</p> |
| Recommendation(s): | That Committee approve the revised Statement of Community Involvement for the purpose of an 8 week public consultation due to commence on Wednesday 13 December 2023. |
| Senior Leadership, Head of Service, Manager, Officer and Other Contact(s): | <p>Adrian Thorpe (Head of Built Environment) (0116) 257 2645 adrian.thorpe@oadby-wigston.gov.uk</p> <p>Jamie Carr (Planning Policy and Development Manager) (0116) 257 2652 jamie.carr@oadby-wigston.gov.uk</p> <p>Ed Morgan (Principal Planning Policy Officer) (0116) 257 2650 ed.morgan@oadby-wigston.gov.uk</p> <p>Lisa Chevallereau (Planning Policy and Monitoring Officer) (0116) 2572 636 lisa.chevallereau@oadby-wigston.gov.uk</p> |
| Strategic Objectives: | <p>Our Council (SO1)</p> <p>Our Communities (SO2)</p> <p>Our Partners (SO5)</p> |
| Vision and Values: | "Our Borough - The Place To Be" (Vision) |

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| | Customer & Community Focused (V1) |
| Report Implications:- | |
| Legal: | There are no implications arising from this report. |
| Financial: | There are no implications arising from this report. |
| Corporate Risk Management: | Reputation Damage (CR4) Regulatory Governance (CR6) |
| Equalities and Equalities Assessment (EA): | There are no implications arising from this report. EA not applicable |
| Human Rights: | There are no implications arising from this report. |
| Health and Safety: | There are no implications arising from this report. |
| Statutory Officers' Comments:- | |
| Head of Paid Service: | The report is satisfactory. |
| Chief Finance Officer: | The report is satisfactory. |
| Monitoring Officer: | The report is satisfactory. |
| Consultees: | None so far, however this report is seeking approval to consult with the public and other key stakeholders. |
| Background Papers: | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended)</u> 2. <u>The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 (as amended)</u> |
| Appendices: | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Revised Draft Statement of Community Involvement (Working Draft) 2. Equality Assessment |

1. Information

- 1.1 The Council is committed to building a strong, empowered and active community to achieve high quality planning and development. It is intended that the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) will allow all local people, businesses and stakeholders to become fully engaged in the planning process in order for the local planning system to be a positive tool in shaping the future growth and improvement of the Borough.
- 1.2 The SCI will ensure that consultation and participation takes place in a timely manner and that a range of involvement techniques are in place to allow people to have a real influence over planning in the Borough.
- 1.3 The revised draft SCI document sets out the Borough Council's approach to involving and consulting local people and stakeholders in the planning process, more specifically the preparation of the various components of the Local Plan and in making development management decisions on planning applications. In line with statutory requirements the SCI should be reviewed at least every 5 years. The Council's current SCI was adopted in 2019.

- 1.4 As a minimum, the Council is required to consult on; planning document preparation in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended); and, planning applications as set out in the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 (as amended).
- 1.5 The SCI sets out in detail how the Council is to consult at each stage of planning document preparation, as well as each stage of planning application decision making.
- 1.6 In summary, the current SCI (2019 version) has been reviewed and amended, however there have been no major changes from the 2019 version to this current review draft SCI (2023 version).

2. Next Steps

- 2.1 Subject to Committee approval, the Council is to publish the Revised Statement of Community Involvement for public consultation for a period of 8 weeks. Therefore, this report seeks approval to carry out a public consultation from the week commencing Wednesday 13 December 2023 for a 8 week period. The length of the consultation has been extended from 6 weeks to 8 weeks to account for the fact that the consultation runs over the Christmas period.
- 2.2 Once the statement has been subject to public consultation, any representations that have been received will be taken account of and factored into a final version of the statement, as necessary. The final version will then be submitted to Members for approval at the next appropriate Member Committee.