



Policy, Finance and Development Committee	Tuesday, 26 March 2024	Matter for Information and Decision
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Report Title: **Statement of Community Involvement (2024)**

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

Purpose of Report:	<p>The purpose of this report is to highlight to Members the comments that were received during the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) public consultation that took place between midday Wednesday 13 December 2023 and midday Wednesday 7 February 2024.</p> <p>This report also highlights how the comments have been taken into account in the final SCI which is now recommended for approval.</p>
Report Summary:	<p>The SCI 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.</p> <p>A total of five bodies submitted representations to the Council during the consultation process. Representations were received from the Environment Agency, Historic England, the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Integrated Care Board, Natural England and a South Wigston Tree Warden.</p> <p>There were no key topics or main issues raised within any of the representations received. The Environment Agency, Historic England and the Integrated Care Board made no specific comment. Natural England supported the principle of meaningful and early engagement of the community, and the South Wigston Tree Warden suggested an amendment to the list of consultation bodies.</p> <p>Having considered the amendment suggested by the Tree Warden, the additions of The Tree Council, The Woodland Trust, and The Open Spaces Society have been made to the list of general consultation bodies in the final SCI document. This is considered a minor change to the report. No other changes have been made to the consultation document.</p>
Recommendation(s):	That Committee approves the Statement of Community Involvement for adoption (as set out at Appendix 1).
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 & Development Manager) (0116) 257 2652 jamie.carr@oadby-wigston.gov.uk</p> <p>Ed Morgan (Principal Planning Policy Officer)</p>

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Strategic Objectives:	Our Council (SO1) Our Communities (SO2) Our Partners (SO5)
Vision and Values:	"Our Borough - The Place To Be" (Vision) 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.
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:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Duty to Cooperate partners • Specific Consultation bodies • General Consultation bodies, and • Other stakeholders held on the Local Plan consultation database
Background Papers:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended) • The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 (as amended)
Appendices:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Statement of Community Involvement (2024) 2. Public Consultation Statement (2024)

1. Information

- 1.1 The Council is committed to building a strong, empowered and active community to achieve high quality and sustainable 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 On Tuesday 5 December 2023, Policy, Finance and Development Committee approved the revised SCI for public consultation. On Wednesday 13 December 2023, the Council undertook an 8 week public consultation on the revised SCI.

2. Consultation Response and Next Steps

- 2.1 To ensure that there was an opportunity for the whole community to get involved, the consultation was advertised as widely as possible. In addition to a notification letter being sent out to every contact on the Local Plan Database, the Council; made all elected Council Members aware of the consultation; advertised the consultation on the Council's website; made available for inspection hard copies of all relevant information and documentation at the Brocks Hill Council Offices; and, made available for inspection electronic copies of all relevant information and documentation on the Council's website.
- 2.2 A total of five bodies submitted representations to the Council on the revised SCI. Representations were received from the Environment Agency, Historic England, the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Integrated Care Board, Natural England and a South Wigston Tree Warden.
- 2.3 Of all the representations received, there were no key topics or main issues raised. The Environment Agency, Historic England and the Integrated Care Board made no specific comment, whilst Natural England supported the principle of meaningful and early engagement of the community. The South Wigston Tree Warden suggested the amendment of adding The Tree Council, The Woodland Trust, and the Open Spaces Society to the list of consultation bodies.
- 2.4 Taking account of the consultation comments received, the additions of The Tree Council, The Woodland Trust, and The Open Spaces Society have been made to the list of general consultation bodies under 'Environmental Protection and Conservation Organisations'. This is considered a minor change to the report. There have been no other changes made to the consultation document.
- 2.5 Further information relating to the consultation is contained within the Council's 'SCI Statement of Consultation 2024'.
- 2.6 Subject to Member approval, the SCI will be adopted as the Council's latest Statement of Community Involvement and will be made freely available to the public on our website.