

# **Statement of Community Involvement**

## **Public Consultation Statement 2024**

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## 1. Introduction

- 1.1. This Public Consultation Statement (Statement) has been prepared in support of the Council's revised Statement of Community Involvement Document (SCI) that was publicly consulted upon between midday Wednesday 13 December 2023 and midday Wednesday 7 February 2024.
- 1.2. Since the last SCI was adopted by the Council in 2019, it is no longer a statutory requirement for local authorities to consult on the preparation of the SCI. However, to ensure transparency and robustness, the Council chose to consult the public through an 8 week consultation period to seek high connectivity with local people and stakeholders. This public consultation statement sets out the following:
  - The persons that the Council consulted during the abovementioned 8 week public consultation;
  - A summary of the main issues raised by those persons who submitted comments during the consultation period; and
  - How any issues raised during the consultation period have been addressed by the Council.
- 1.3. Appendix 1 of this Statement sets out a summary of all the comments received during the public consultation period and Council officer responses to each of these comments.

## 2. Public Consultation Period

- 2.1. A public consultation for the revised SCI was undertaken by the Council between December 2023 and February 2024, as specified in paragraph 1.1 of this document.
- 2.2. The SCI sets out the Council's approach to involving and consulting local people and stakeholders in planning related document production, such as the Local Plan and Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs).
- 2.3. In line with requirements, the following persons and bodies were notified via notification letter, sent either by email or post, of the consultation that was taking place:
  - Duty to Cooperate partners
  - Specific Consultation bodies
  - General Consultation bodies
  - Other stakeholders held on the Local Plan consultation database
- 2.4. Due to the content of the SCI, the Council also invited representation from local groups and civic societies, due to the role that they play within the local community.
- 2.5. The notification letter explained:
  - The purpose of the consultation;
  - How to find further information;
  - The consultation period;
  - How to make representations; and,
  - How a person or body could be added to the Council's Local Plan consultation database.
- 2.6. In addition to the notification letter, 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 Council's Brocks Hill Offices; and,
  - Made available for inspection electronic copies of all relevant information and documentation on the Council's website.

### **3. Summary of the Main Issues Raised**

- 3.1. A total of five persons / bodies submitted representations to the Council relating to the revised SCI. Representations were received from the Environment Agency, Historic England, Natural England, the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Integrated Care Board and a South Wigston Tree Warden.
- 3.2. There were no key topics or main issues raised within any of the representations received relating to the revised SCI. The Environment Agency, Historic England and the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland 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 which has been considered.

## **4. How the Issues Raised Have Been Addressed**

- 4.1. 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 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.

## Appendix 1. Summary of Comments Received During the Consultation Period and Officer Responses

Name of person / body submitting comment	Date on which comment was received	Nature of comment received	Officer response to comment received
Natural England	22/12/23	We are supportive of the principle of meaningful and early engagement of the general community, community organisations and statutory bodies in local planning matters, both in terms of shaping policy and participating in the process of determining planning applications. We regret we are unable to comment, in detail, on individual Statements of Community Involvement but information on the planning service we offer, including advice on how to consult us, can be found at: <a href="https://www.gov.uk/guidance/local-planning-authorities-get-environmental-advice">https://www.gov.uk/guidance/local-planning-authorities-get-environmental-advice</a>	Thank you for your reply. We have noted the consultation response.
Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Integrated Care Board	05/02/24	The NHS Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland Integrated Care Board (ICB) are pleased to receive the draft publication of the Statement of Community Involvement for adoption. Thank you for the opportunity to comment and I look forward to working together.	Thank you for taking the time to engage in the consultation with the Statement of Community Involvement.
South Wigston Tree Warden	05/02/24	Seems important to add the Tree Council, The Woodland Trust, and the Open Spaces Society to the consultation bodies in the relevant appendix.	Thank you for your engagement with the Statement of Community Involvement consultation. Your comments are appreciated and have been noted.
Environment Agency	06/02/24	Thank you for giving the Environment Agency the opportunity to comment on your Authorities Draft Statement of Community Involvement. Having reviewed the document we have no adverse comments to make.	Thank you for your reply and engagement with the consultation on the Statement of Community Involvement. We have noted the consultation response.
Historic England	06/02/24	Thank you for the consultation on the Draft SCI for the Borough. I am writing to advise that we note the references to Historic England, which are welcomed, but have no additional comments to make on the draft document.	Thank you for your engagement with the Statement of Community Involvement consultation. We have noted the response.