

Cabinet

28 January 2020

Dorset Council Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)

For Decision

Portfolio Holder: Cllr D Walsh, Planning

Local Councillor(s): N/A

Executive Director: John Sellgren, Executive Director of Place

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Report Status: Public

Recommendation: That the Council adopts the Dorset Council Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) as set out in Appendix A.

Reason for Recommendation: To ensure Dorset Council has an adopted SCI detailing how and when it will involve the community as part of its planning duties.

1. Executive Summary

A SCI sets out how and when a local planning authority will involve the community as part of its planning duties. A draft version of Dorset Council's SCI has been consulted on. All of the responses received have been analysed and a final version of the SCI has been produced taking into account the comments received. The purpose of this report is to adopt the final version of the SCI.

2. Financial Implications

A number of the consultation methods set out within the SCI have budgetary implications. The costs associated with the consultation methods detailed in the SCI will be covered by existing budgets.

3. Climate implications

The adoption of the SCI itself has limited direct implications in respect of climate change. However, the adoption of the SCI will establish an appropriate framework by which Dorset Council will consult with the community as part of its planning duties. The adoption of such a framework will give people an opportunity to engage with the planning process on a wide range of matters including climate change.

4. Other Implications

The adoption of the SCI will have implications for all residents and a wide range of organisations, including Town and Parish Councils, in terms of how Dorset Council will involve the community as part of its planning duties.

5. Risk Assessment

Having considered the risks associated with this decision, the level of risk has been identified as:

Current Risk: LOW

Residual Risk: LOW

6. Equalities Impact Assessment

A draft assessment of the impact of Dorset Council adopting the SCI is attached at Appendix C. The draft assessment details that the adoption of the SCI will have a positive or neutral impact in respect of the protected characteristics defined under the Equality Act 2010.

7. Appendices

Appendix A: Dorset Council Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) (January, 2020)

Appendix B: Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) Consultation – Summary of Responses (January, 2020)

8. Background Papers

None

9. Background and Reason Decision Needed

9.1 The Council is statutorily required by the Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) to produce and adopt a SCI and review it every 5 years. The proposed SCI (Appendix A) details how and when Dorset Council will involve the community as part of its planning duties.

9.2 Once adopted the SCI will replace the existing SCIs previously adopted by the predecessor Councils (Dorset County Council, East Dorset District Council, North Dorset District Council, Purbeck District Council, West Dorset District Council and Weymouth & Portland Borough Council) that existed prior to the formation of Dorset Council on the 1 April 2019.

9.3 A draft version of the Dorset Council SCI was consulted on from 21 June 2019 to 2 August 2019. 165 responses were received to the consultation. Of these the majority of responses were from residents (95 responses) and Town and Parish Councils (32 responses).

9.4 All of the responses received have been analysed by officers and where deemed appropriate changes have been made to the draft SCI to reflect comments that have been made. Appendix B to this report provides a Summary of Comments received on the Draft SCI and Dorset Council's response to the comments received. Dorset Council's response details where changes have been made to the draft version of the SCI.

Footnote:

Issues relating to financial, legal, environmental, economic and equalities implications have been considered and any information relevant to the decision is included within the report.