

Adoption of South Somerset District Council Statement of Community Involvement

Executive Portfolio Holder: Angie Singleton, Strategic Planning (Place Making)
Strategic Director: Rina Singh, Strategic Director, Place and Performance
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Purpose of the Report

To request that the South Somerset Statement of Community Involvement (November 2015) is endorsed by District Executive and can progress to Full Council and be formally adopted.

Public Interest

The Council has a statutory responsibility to produce a Statement of Community Involvement (SCI). The SCI sets out how and when the public, businesses, and other organisations will be consulted on the preparation of the statutory planning documents, such as the Local Plan. The SCI also explains how and when the Council will consult on planning applications.

South Somerset District Council's current SCI was adopted in 2007 and requires updating due to the many changes in planning policy and legislation. The updated SCI responds to these new requirements and best practice from around the country.

Recommendation(s)

That the District Executive recommends to Council:

1. To endorse the adoption version of the South Somerset Statement of Community Involvement (November 2015) (**Appendix A**) and recommend that it is adopted by Full Council.
2. To delegate responsibility to the Assistant Director for Economy in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Strategic Planning (Place Making) to make any final minor text amendments that may be necessary to enable the South Somerset Statement of Community Involvement, (November 2015) to be adopted.

1. Background

- 1.1 The SCI sets out how and when the community and other stakeholders will be consulted on the preparation of the Council's statutory planning documents. It also explains how the community will be consulted on planning applications. The previous SCI was adopted in 2007 and requires updating due to changes in planning legislation and regulations.

2. South Somerset Statement of Community Involvement November 2015

- 2.1 The Draft SCI was consulted upon for a six week period commencing on 20th August 2015 and ending on 2nd October 2015. All those on the Spatial Policy Consultation database were notified of the consultation and the document was placed on the

iNovem online system and in South Somerset Council offices and local libraries. In total 27 respondents made comments on the SCI and these have informed the final document presented in Appendix A.

2.2 A summary of the main issues raised during the consultation together with an officer response can be seen in Appendix B.

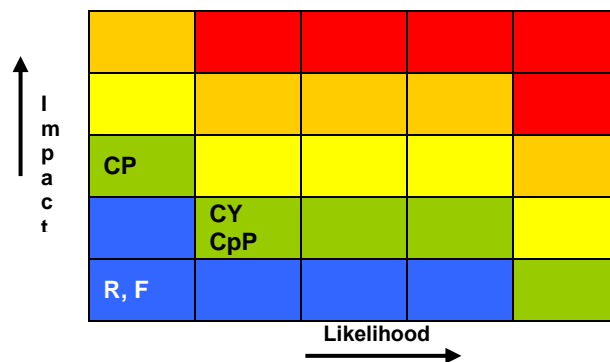
3. Next Steps

3.1 Once adopted the SCI will be posted on the Council's web site, and will replace the 2007 version.

4. Financial Implications

4.1 Current levels of consultation for plan making are fully resourced and can be accommodated within existing budgets. But should there be requirements for additional rounds of consultation then this will have a resourcing and financial implication.

5. Risk Matrix



Key

Categories	Colours (for further detail please refer to Risk management strategy)
R = Reputation	Red = High impact and high probability
CpP = Corporate Plan Priorities	Orange = Major impact and major probability
CP = Community Priorities	Yellow = Moderate impact and moderate probability
CY = Capacity	Green = Minor impact and minor probability
F = Financial	Blue = Insignificant impact and insignificant probability

6. Corporate Priority Implications

6.1 No direct implications, although an SCI is required as part of the Council's planning function which has an impact on all areas of the Council Plan by making provision for housing and economic growth, protecting the environment and helping to contribute to happy and healthy communities.

7. Carbon Emissions and Climate Change Implications

7.1 None.

8. Equality and Diversity Implications

8.1 Equality considerations are embedded in the SCI and the Equality Officer was engaged during the drafting of the document.

Background Papers

Appendix A: South Somerset Statement of Community Involvement (November 2015)

Appendix B: Summary Report of Responses to Consultation (October 2015)