

# **Adoption of South Somerset District Council Statement of Community Involvement**

*Service Manager:* Paul Wheatley, Principal Spatial Planner  
*Lead Officer:* Jo Wilkins, Policy Planner  
*Contact Details:* Jo.wilkins@southsomerset.gov.uk or (01935) 462588

## **Purpose of the Report**

To formally adopt the South Somerset District Council Statement of Community Involvement.

## **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 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 Council:

1. Adopt the South Somerset District Council Statement of Community Involvement (**Appendix A**).
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 to enable the adopted South Somerset District Council Statement of Community Involvement to be published.

### **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**

- 2.1 The Draft SCI was consulted upon for a six week period commencing on 20<sup>th</sup> August 2015 and ending on 2<sup>nd</sup> 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. Corporate Priority Implications**

5.1 No direct implications, although an SCI is required as part of the Councils 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.

### **6. Carbon Emissions and Climate Change Implications**

6.1 None.

### **7. Equality and Diversity Implications**

7.1 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)