

Statement of Community Involvement

STATEMENT OF CONSULTATION

February 2019

1.0 Introduction

1.1 This consultation statement has been prepared in accordance with Regulation 12(b) of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012. It supports the Revised Statement of Community Involvement (SCI), which was published for public consultation between 26 October and 21 December 2018.

1.2 The Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) sets out the Council's approach to consulting the local community and other stakeholders on planning matters. The production of a SCI is a requirement of the Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, and should explain how the Council will engage local communities and other interested parties in producing their Local Plan and determining planning applications. It is a legal requirement that any consultation on Local Plans is undertaken in accordance with the adopted SCI.

1.3 In preparing a SCI, local authorities are required to publish a Statement of Consultation setting out:

- Who was consulted during the preparation of the SCI;
- How they were consulted;
- The main issues raised in response to the consultation;
- How those issues were addressed in the SCI.

2.0 Who was consulted?

2.1 An 8-week consultation on the Draft SCI was undertaken between 26 October and 21 December 2018. All consultees on the list of the consultation portal were informed of the consultation.

3.0 How were they consulted?

3.1 Consultation on the Draft Revised SCI was undertaken in accordance with the proposals within the SCI. The consultation was promoted to the local community and other stakeholders via emails sent to the

stakeholders on the mailing list (including statutory consultees).

- 3.2 Consultees were given the option to respond to the consultation by:
- Commenting on the Draft SCI directly on-line via the consultation portal;
 - Completing the on-line representation form, or by uploading an electronic version to the consultation portal;
 - Returning a paper copy of the representation form via email or post;
 - Providing comments directly to the Planning Policy team via email or letter.

4.0 Summary of the Main Issues and how they were addressed

- 4.1 Consultation on the Draft Revised SCI resulted in six representations from six different consultees. A table summarising the representations received is provided as Appendix 1.
- 4.2 Representations were received from Natural England, Southern Water, Pevensey and Cuckmere Water Level Management Board, Historic England, Sussex Ramblers and Highways England. None of the comments related to the content of the SCI.
- 4.3 Historic England representation underlined the importance of involvement of stakeholder organisations with interests and responsibilities in the historic environment. To this end, it is important to consult with both the Council's own conservation officer or team and local amenity societies. They attached a list of national amenity bodies to add to the list of general consultation bodies. These bodies have been added to the planning policy mailing list.
- 4.4 The Pevensey and Cuckmere Water Level Management Board would like to be consulted during plan making and on planning applications, and it is confirmed that they are on the planning policy mailing list.
- 4.5 Sussex Ramblers commented on paragraphs 6.3 and 6.4 where it is stated that Neighbourhood Planning should be positive. They stress that it must also be possible for a neighbourhood, having stated where housing can be placed to meet the required levels, to also designate other areas as highly undesirable for development e.g. maintaining a distinct boundary between communities or growth in areas that are incompatible with promoting pedestrian access to a 'village hub'. This comment relates to the actual preparation of a neighbourhood plan,

rather than how the Council will give advice and assistance to groups undertaking neighbourhood planning, and is therefore not relevant to the SCI.

4.6 Natural England, Southern Water and Highways England responded to the consultation to confirm that they had no comments to make on the revised SCI.

5.0 Conclusion

5.1 This Statement of Consultation sets out who was consulted, what was said, and how this influenced the Revised Statement of Community Involvement.

5.2 The Draft Revised SCI was published for public consultation between 26 October and 21 December 2018. This resulted in 6 representations from 6 respondents. It was not necessary to amend the SCI as a result of these comments.

5.3 It is recognised that the consultation on the SCI resulted in a few representations. This can be explained by the fact that the revision took place a year after the adoption of the former version. In the preparation of that version, also a survey was applied, additional to the formal consultation.

Appendix 1: Representations EBC Statement of Community Involvement

Consultation period between 19 October and 21 December 2018

Respondent	Para.	Representation	Reaction Officer	Proposed amendments
Natural England	General	<p>Thank you for your consultation on the above dated and received by Natural England on 26th October 2018. Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development. 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: https://www.gov.uk/protected-species-and-sites-how-to-review-planning-proposals. We now ask that all planning consultations are sent electronically to the central hub for our planning and development advisory service at the following address: consultations@naturalengland.org.uk. This system enables us to deliver the most efficient and effective service to our customers.</p>	Comment noted.	None
Southern Water	General	<p>Thank you for your email inviting Southern Water to comment on the revised Eastbourne Statement of Community Involvement. I confirm we have reviewed the document and are pleased to note that our comments made in relation to the 2017 consultation have been addressed. We have no further comments to make and look forward to being kept informed of progress.</p>	Comment noted	None
Pevensey and	General	<p>The entirety of Eastbourne is within the Pevensey and Cuckmere</p>	Comment noted	None

Cuckmere Water Level Management Board		Water Level Management Board's drainage district. Therefore the Board would like to be consulted during the different stages of plan making and on planning applications that can affect surface water movement or drainage within the district.		
Historic England	General	Thank you for your email of 26 October 2018 inviting comments on the above document. The consultation process detailed in the SCI should be adequate in meeting the requirements of the Local Development Regulations 2004. It will be important to ensure that stakeholder organisations with interests and responsibilities in the historic environment, at national and local levels, are fully involved throughout the consultation process. To this end, it is important to consult with both the Council's own conservation officer or team and local amenity societies. In terms of the general requirements of consultation in relation to the historic environment, I attach a Note on Consultation with the Heritage Sector and a list of national amenity bodies.	Comment noted	None
Sussex Ramblers	6.3 and 6.4	Although that statements 6.3 and 6.4 stress that Neighbourhood Planning should be positive, it must also be possible for a neighbourhood, having stated where housing can be placed to meet the required levels, to also designate other areas as highly undesirable for development eg maintaining a distinct boundary between communities or growth in areas that are incompatible with promoting pedestrian access to a 'village hub'.	Comment noted, as this comment does not refer to the SCI but to Neighbourhood Planning in general, no amendment is required.	None
Highways England	General	Thank you for your letter dated 26 October 2018 inviting Highways England to comment on the above consultation. Highways England has been appointed by the Secretary of State for Transport as strategic highway company under the provisions of the Infrastructure Act 2015 and is the highway authority, traffic authority and street authority for the strategic road network (SRN). The SRN is a critical national asset and, as such, Highways England works to ensure that it operates and is managed in the public interest, both in respect of current activities and needs, as well as in providing effective stewardship	Comments noted.	None

		<p>of its long-term operation and integrity. We will therefore be concerned with proposals that have the potential to impact the safe and efficient operation of the SRN.</p> <p>Having examined the Eastbourne Revised Statement of Community Involvement October 2018, we are satisfied that its policies will not materially affect the safety, reliability and / or operation of the SRN (the tests set out in DfT C2/13 para 10 and DCLG NPPF para 32). Accordingly, Highways England does not offer any comments on the consultation.</p> <p>Thank you again for consulting with Highways England and please continue to consult us via our inbox: planningse@highwaysengland.co.uk.</p>		
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