

Joint Executive (Cabinet) Committee

Title of Report:	West Suffolk Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) December 2018: Adoption	
Report No:	CAB/JT/18/055	
Report to and dates:	Joint Executive (Cabinet) Committee	11 December 2018
	St Edmundsbury Council	18 December 2018
	Forest Heath Council	19 December 2018
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Purpose of report:	To inform Members of the review of the Joint Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) and to adopt the revised SCI as a framework for involving the community in planning policy and development management processes in West Suffolk.	
Recommendation:	It is <u>RECOMMENDED</u> that the Joint Executive (Cabinet) Committee: (1) Notes the revised West Suffolk Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)(as set	

	<p>out in Working Paper 1 to Report No: CAB/JT/18/055); and</p> <p>(2) Recommends to Forest Heath District and St Edmundsbury Borough Councils that the West Suffolk Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) is adopted (as set out in Working Paper 1 to Report No: CAB/JT/18/055).</p>		
<p>Key Decision:</p> <p><i>(Check the appropriate box and delete all those that do not apply.)</i></p>	<p><i>Is this a Key Decision and, if so, under which definition?</i></p> <p>Yes, it is a Key Decision - <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No, it is not a Key Decision - <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>		
<p><i>The decisions made as a result of this report will usually be published within 48 hours. This item is included on the Decisions Plan.</i></p>			
Consultation:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not required by virtue of PPG para 30. 		
Alternative option(s):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None. The preparation and publication of a Statement of Community Involvement is a requirement of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. 		
Implications:			
<p><i>Are there any financial implications?</i></p> <p><i>If yes, please give details</i></p>		<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	
<p><i>Are there any staffing implications?</i></p> <p><i>If yes, please give details</i></p>		<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	
<p><i>Are there any ICT implications? If yes, please give details</i></p>		<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Web based consultation commitments in SCI. 	
<p><i>Are there any legal and/or policy implications? If yes, please give details</i></p>		<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a requirement for LPAs to produce a SCI, (part 18 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act, 2004). 	
<p><i>Are there any equality implications? If yes, please give details</i></p>		<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As detailed in the report. 	
Risk/opportunity assessment:		<p><i>(potential hazards or opportunities affecting corporate, service or project objectives)</i></p>	
Risk area	Inherent level of risk (before controls)	Controls	Residual risk (after controls)
	Low/Medium/ High*		Low/Medium/ High*
Without evidencing proper community engagement in the planning process there is a risk that the local plan documents could not proceed to examination /adoption and planning appeals being upheld, with	High	Adoption of the consultation procedures detailed in the Statement of Community Involvement attached at Working Paper 1 of this report.	Low

the possible award of costs against them.			
Ward(s) affected:	All Wards		
Background papers: <i>(all background papers are to be published on the website and a link included)</i>	Forest Heath District Council & St Edmundsbury Borough Council Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) Adopted - February 2014. https://www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/planning/Planning_Policies/upload/Adopted-version-SCI.pdf		
Documents attached:	Working Paper 1 - West Suffolk Statement of Community Involvement (December 2018)		

1. Key issues and Reasons for Recommendation(s)

1.1 Revised Statement of Community Involvement – December 2018

- 1.1.1 The Local Plan is the tool used to deliver the land use elements of the wider place-making function of the Council. It is part of the suite of corporate strategies/plans and programmes which collectively deliver the strategic priorities.
- 1.1.2 As the starting point for considering whether planning applications can be approved. The Local Plan provides the framework for good development across West Suffolk.
- 1.1.3 A review of the existing Local Plans is now required to meet our Council ambitions and to safeguard communities from speculative unsustainable growth – development in the wrong locations and without the necessary strategic infrastructure. The Local Plan will provide a positive, flexible and deliverable planning policy framework for West Suffolk.
- 1.1.4 Before starting work on the West Suffolk Local Plan, the Council has reviewed and updated its Statement of Community Involvement which explains how they will engage local communities and other interested parties in producing their Local Plan and determining planning applications.
- 1.1.5 Section 18 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 introduced the requirement for local planning authorities to produce a Statement of Community Involvement (SCI). The current joint Forest Heath DC and St Edmundsbury BC SCI was adopted in February 2014.
- 1.1.6 Recently, a number of legislation changes have resulted in the need to update the SCI. These include, through the Neighbourhood Planning Act 2017, a requirement for the SCI to set out the local planning authority's policies for giving advice and assistance in relation to making and modifying neighbourhood plans and neighbourhood development orders. The Neighbourhood Planning Act also requires the SCI to include the authorities' policies for involvement in relation to the preliminary stages of plan production.
- 1.1.7 The NPPF 2018 also introduced new requirements to produce Statements of Common Ground under the Duty to Cooperate. The requirement for the SCI to be subject to examination and for any review to be the subject of public consultation has also been removed. Reviewing the SCI also provided an opportunity to reflect changes to the Councils' practices such as the introduction of charging for pre-application advice and the forthcoming creation of a single West Suffolk Council.
- 1.1.8 A reviewed version of the SCI taking into account recent legislative and procedural changes is attached. It is for this version that Officers are seeking Members approval.