

Report to	-	Cabinet
Date	-	5 November 2018
Report of the	-	Executive Director
Subject	-	Statement of Community Involvement – Adoption

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**Recommendation to COUNCIL:** That the updated Statement of Community Involvement considered by Cabinet on 30 July 2018 be formally approved and adopted.

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**Head of Service: Tim Hickling**  
**Lead Cabinet Member: Councillor G.P. Johnson**

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### Introduction

1. Cabinet will recall recent consideration of the draft updated ‘Statement of Community Involvement’ (SCI), which sets out how and when the Council will carry out consultations and involve the community in both the preparation of planning policy documents and in the determination of planning applications.
2. The updated SCI was approved in draft form for the purposes of public consultation on 30 July 2018 (Minute CB18/15 refers). However, the consultation has not yet taken place and, in September 2018, the Government updated its Planning Practice Guidance. Where of direct relevance to this resolution, it has stated that: ‘There is no requirement for local planning authorities to consult when reviewing and updating their Statement of Community Involvement.’  
[from Paragraph: 030 Reference ID: 61-030-20180913]
3. In the light of this guidance and given the fact that the updated SCI essentially reflects current practice, rather than propose new or different practices, the Council may reasonably adopt the SCI in its updated form.
4. Given the resources available, the priority that must be given to publishing and processing representations on the Development and Site Allocations Local Plan and to undertaking an urgent review of the Core Strategy’s policies in light of the soon to be released new housing need figures from the Government.
5. In addition, a number of Neighbourhood Plans (NPs) are reaching key stages, with three being submitted in the next two months. There are also a further four NPs which will need advice and assistance to expedite their progress to submission.

### Conclusion

6. It is concluded that it is appropriate to focus resources on plan-making and that the draft updated SCI, as considered by Cabinet on 30 July 2018, be recommended to Council for adoption.

Dr Anthony Leonard  
Executive Director

**Risk Assessment Statement**

There is no legal risk from not consulting on the updated SCI. There is a risk that some interested parties may want the opportunity to shape the Council's practice in relation to neighbourhood planning in particular, but also the introduction of Permission in Principle and Brownfield Land Registers. However, the SCI sets out current practice, which is in line with the Council's statutory responsibilities, responsive to local needs and achievable within existing resources, without creating unrealistic expectations.