



Report to: Cabinet Meeting: 26 March 2024

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Matthew Spoons, Sustainable Economic Development

Director Lead: Matt Lamb, Director - Planning & Growth

Lead Officers: Lisa Hughes, Business Manager – Planning Development, Ext.5565
 Matthew Norton, Business Manager – Planning Policy & Infrastructure, Ext. 5852.

Report Summary	
Type of Report	Open Report, Key Decision
Report Title	Statement of Community Involvement Review
Purpose of Report	To update the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) in relation to Planning Committee permitting public speaking.
Recommendations	That Cabinet approve: a) the proposed amendments to the SCI; and b) public consultation be undertaken for 6-weeks on the proposed amendments for referral back to Cabinet for adoption.
Alternative Options Considered	It was not considered appropriate to continue with an unamended SCI following the decision of Planning Committee to allow public speaking.
Reason for Recommendations	To ensure the SCI aligns with the Council’s Constitution and ‘Protocol for Dealing with Planning Matters’. To allow consultation to be undertaken on the Draft SCI.

1.0 Background

1.1 A [report](#) was presented to Full Council on 13 February 2024, where Members agreed changes to the Council’s Constitution to facilitate Planning Committee to allow public speaking, should they determine this was appropriate. Planning Committee subsequently considered a report on the 14 March 2024 where it resolved to allow public speaking in accordance with the procedures set out within the ‘Protocol for Dealing with Planning Matters’. The Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) provides the detail of engagement by the Council in relation to planning matters – both for plan preparation as well as for consideration of a planning application as well as pre-application advice. The SCI therefore requires amending to address that public speaking has now been permitted.

2.0 Proposal/Details of Options Considered

Do Nothing

- 2.1 This was considered as an option but dismissed in favour of allowing public speaking, bringing this Council in line with the vast majority of many others nationally. Not updating the SCI to reflect the Planning Committee resolution would be inappropriate.

Update the SCI

- 2.2 This is considered the only reasonable option available due to the Full Council and Planning Committee resolutions. Opportunity has also been taken to ensure that the SCI is up-to-date in relation to a number of other matters given the time elapsed since it was last updated. This includes, but is not limited to, the process of an application, appeals procedure, suggested amended wording in relation to negotiation during the consideration of a planning application updating hyperlinks, the Council's address. The suggested amended SCI is attached at **Appendix A**.
- 2.3 It is not proposed to make any further changes to the SCI as under the planning reforms introduced under the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act SCI's will be replaced by consultation statements relating to individual Local Plan consultations. The proposed amendments to the SCI are included in Appendix A, below, with updates provided in underlined text and text to be removed crossed out ~~as such~~.

Consultation on the Proposed Changes

- 2.4 The Statement of Community Involvement sets out the legislative requirements for consulting on changes to it. These mirror the requirements for Supplementary Planning Documents. Whilst the changes are factual and primarily related to public speaking at Planning Committee it is a requirement to undertake consultation as set out within the SCI at Appendix 4. This includes town/parish councils, voluntary bodies as well as statutory consultees who regularly comment on Planning. The consultation will be publicised on the Council's website and copies placed in Libraries in the District. The consultation will be for a period of six weeks. Once completed officers will consider any comments, propose any changes to respond to any concerns raised, and finalise the SCI for adoption by Cabinet.

3.0 Implications

In writing this report and in putting forward recommendations, officers have considered the following implications: Data Protection; Digital & Cyber Security; Equality & Diversity; Financial; Human Resources; Human Rights; Legal; Safeguarding & Sustainability and where appropriate they have made reference to these implications and added suitable expert comment where appropriate.

Financial Implications FIN23-24/1965

- 3.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report, the consultation will be paid for from the existing Local Development Framework Budget.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

[Newark & Sherwood Local Development Framework – Statement of Community Involvement](#)
Full Council Meeting – 13 February 2024 – [Constitution Update – Public Speaking at Planning Committee](#)

Planning Committee 14 March 2024 – [Planning Constitution Review](#)