

Revised Statement of Community Involvement

Background

- Existing SCI adopted in 2008
- Update to SCI needed to reflect:
 - planning reforms and
 - experience of community involvement since 2008

How SCI was revised

Two stages of community involvement informed SCI revision:

1) Initial engagement (Nov 2014 -Jan 2015)

- NPN and Planning User Group meetings

- Results of engagement:

- Reflecting NPN comments, draft revised SCI:

- retained the ‘ground rules’ set out in the 2008 SCI

- gave greater prominence to encouraging developers to carry out pre-application community involvement.

- Reflecting Planning User Group comments:

- Revised draft clarified pre-application involvement carried out by developers should be proportionate to the scale and potential impact of the proposal.

2) Consultation on draft revised SCI (May-July 2015)

- Local Plan Consultation Database (2,100 members) notified
- Results of engagement:

Ground Rules - changes to emphasise:

- adequate time should be provided to enable participants to effectively engage;
- meeting at the earliest 'ideas' stage provides an opportunity to agree the approach to community involvement;
- engagement via written correspondence should be pursued if participants are unable to attend involvement events or meetings;
- participants should be provided with sufficient reasons for the proposal or plan to allow intelligent consideration and response;

Planning applications with potential cross-boundary impacts

- Proposed new text clarifies developers of schemes likely to have impacts in neighbouring local authority areas should engage with relevant town / parish councils.

Main elements of revised SCI

- Greater prominence to encouraging developers to carry out **effective pre-application involvement**
- Addressing how the council engages on applications and policy documents with **potential cross-boundary impacts**
- Updating the '**Ground Rules**' for community involvement contained in the 2008 SCI
- Updated information on how the council will:
 - involve the community in preparing the **Local Plan** and the West of England **Joint Spatial Plan**
 - support neighbourhood forums in carrying out involvement on **neighbourhood development plans**
- More **concise** than the 2008 SCI (reduced in length from 33 to 19 pages)
- Reflects council's 2011 **Code of Good Practice on Consultation**

Next steps

Revised SCI to be considered for approval by Cabinet on 3 November 2015.

Place



BRISTOL
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