

Committee(s)	Dated:
Planning and Transportation Committee	10 March 2016
Subject: Approval of draft revised Statement of Community Involvement for Public Consultation	Public
Report of: Carolyn Dwyer, Director of the Built Environment	For Decision
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Summary

The City Corporation is required to prepare a Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) setting out how it intends to consult when preparing planning policies and deciding planning applications. The current SCI was adopted in November 2012 and requires some updating to coincide with the start of work on the Local Plan Review. A revised draft SCI is attached and it is recommended that it be issued for public consultation. After consultation a final version of the SCI will be brought back to this Committee for adoption.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to approve the draft revised Statement of Community Involvement appended to this report for public consultation

Main Report

Background

1. Legislation states that every Local Planning Authority has a duty to prepare a Statement of Community Involvement (SCI). This is a legal planning document that sets out how the City Corporation will consult with members of the public and stakeholders when preparing planning policy documents and when determining applications for planning permission and related consents.
2. To date the City Corporation has adopted three versions of the SCI, firstly in 2006 which was updated in 2009 and again in 2012. The 2012 version remains in effect at present.

Current Position

3. The current SCI was produced shortly after the 2011 Localism Act and associated changes in regulations, which amended many of the procedures for preparing planning policy documents and processing planning applications. Whilst there have been no major legislative changes since the current SCI was prepared, it is timely to update the requirements and procedures set out in the 2012 version given that the City Corporation is commencing a review of the City's

Local Plan. Publishing an updated SCI will provide clarity to interested parties about the type of consultation that can be expected at each stage of the Local Plan review process and in the consideration of planning applications.

Proposals

4. A draft updated SCI is attached at Appendix 1. The changes to the current SCI are relatively small and mainly focus on providing greater clarity for the reader as well as updating factual information. However, reference has been added to consultations regarding Neighbourhood Plans; more emphasis is given to the duty to cooperate with neighbouring boroughs and certain other bodies in the preparation of planning policies; a table setting out the consultation requirements for different types of planning applications has been added; and the guidance on pre-application consultations with the community by developers has been updated.
5. Changes made in the Localism Act 2011 allow Local Planning Authorities to publish and adopt their SCI without a statutory requirement for public consultation. However, as the entire purpose of the SCI is to set out how the City Corporation will engage with the public, it is considered good practice to undertake public consultation on a draft version and to take account of the comments received before adopting the updated SCI.
6. A report will be brought back to this Committee before the summer recess summarising the outcome of the public consultation and recommending a final version of the SCI for adoption.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

7. The SCI supports the Corporation's Strategic Aim to maintain high quality, accessible and responsive services benefiting its communities, neighbours, London and the nation. The SCI also supports the Department of the Built Environment's Business Plan objective to improve external communications and actively engage with City residents, workers and visitors.
8. There are no financial implications arising out of this report.

Conclusion

Members are asked to approve the draft updated SCI attached to this report for public consultation.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Statement of Community Involvement 2016

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