

Divisions Affected – All

DELEGATED DECISIONS BY THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

22 MAY 2025

OXFORDSHIRE STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT REVIEW

Report by Director of Economy and Place

RECOMMENDATION

The Leader of the Council is **RECOMMENDED** to:

- a) **Approve the review of the Statement of Community Involvement 2020, subject to a further review of the Statement of Community Involvement being carried out by December 2026.**

Background

1. The County Council is the Minerals and Waste Planning Authority for Oxfordshire and is responsible for all minerals and waste planning matters in the county.
2. Section 18 (1) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) requires that each Local Planning Authority produce a Statement of Community Involvement (SCI). The SCI sets out the way in which consultations will be carried out on both policy and Development Management matters.
3. Regulation 10A of Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended) requires that Statements of Community Involvement be reviewed every five years.
4. The County Council adopted the Revised Oxfordshire Statement of Community Involvement in May 2020, and so it is required to be reviewed by May 2025.
5. Regulation 10A (b) of The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 states that a Statement of Community Involvement must be reviewed five years after its adoption, but it does not specify any requirement for consultation on a review of the Statement of Community Involvement (hereafter referred to as SCI).

The Review

6. The full review of the SCI is set out in Appendix 1 of this report. The current SCI can be found here:
<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/file/planning-minerals-and-waste/ApprovedSCIMay2020.pdf>
7. There are several paragraphs within the document that would benefit from slight redrafting and correction of some typographical errors, but none of them would affect the consultation process.
8. Provisions of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 are expected to come into effect later this year, and a revised SCI will be needed following that, but the SCI is currently correct in the legislation it has quoted.
9. The County Council's six principles of consultation contained within the SCI remain unchanged, and the SCI follows those principles.

Conclusion

10. The review has shown that there is no need to update the current SCI at this time, but the anticipated legislation on plan-making is likely to require a change following its coming into force. The Cabinet Member is therefore **RECOMMENDED** to approve the review of the Statement of Community Involvement as set out in Appendix 1 of this report, subject to a further review being carried out no later than December 2026.

Legal Implications

11. The current processes for the production of a Statement of Community Involvement are set out in both statute and regulations. The principle relevant legislation and regulations are:
 1. The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004
 2. The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012

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Equality and Inclusion Implications

12. The purpose of the Statement of Community Involvement is to seek consultations from a wide range of consultees through a range of methods. One of the main planks of the new plan-making process proposed by Central Government is to make the planning process, and Local Plans themselves, more interactive and accessible. The inclusion of a review by December 2026 would require a review of the SCI once that new legislation is produced and enacted. This would not have any negative equality implications.

Sustainability Implications

13. The Statement of Community Involvement is not proposed to be updated at this time and will therefore not have any sustainability implications at this time. The proposed changes to plan-making will encourage more use of digitised online media and less printed documents. This would be taken into account in the further review of the SCI following the enactment of the new plan-making legislation.

Financial Implications

14. The review has no financial implications other than to use the resources necessary to update the SCI efficiently by making the required changes following the publication and enactment of new legislation.

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Background papers: Annex 1 – Review of Statement of Community Involvement

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