

Teignbridge District Council
Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) (May 2019)
Statement of Public Participation

1.0 Purpose of the statement

- 1.1 A draft Statement of Community Involvement was consulted on for an 8 week period from 21st May until 16th July 2018. It was published alongside the Teignbridge Local Plan Review 2020-2040: Issues Consultation.
- 1.2 The statement sets out:
- The persons / organisations the Local Planning Authority consulted when preparing the supplementary planning document;
 - A summary of the main issues raised by those persons / organisations, and;
 - How those issues have been addressed in the supplementary planning document.
- 1.3 The consultation that took place in May 2018 provided the opportunity for anyone to make comments on the consultation draft of the SCI.

2.0 Preparation, Consultation and Engagement

- 2.1 Public consultation on the draft SCI took place from 21st May 2018 until 16th July 2018.
- 2.2 Documents were made available as part of a static display in the Council's main Forde House public reception area. They were also provided to public libraries and to all Town and Parish Councils in the District.
- 2.3 Public notification of the SCI (as part of the Local Plan Review consultation) included:
- Press release to the local newspaper
 - News article on the Council's website home page
 - Publicity on the Council's main social media pages and the Plan Teignbridge Twitter and Facebook pages.
- 2.4 The Council maintains a database of all individual persons and organisations who have expressed an interest to be kept informed of consultations by the Council on planning policy documents. These persons and organisations were all notified of the consultation by letter or email. All statutory consultees (including town and parish councils), district councillors and adjacent parish councils were also notified.

2.5 Consultation drop-in events were held at 13 locations across the district. These were generally well attended and provided an opportunity for members of the public to meet planning officers and discuss the documentation and proposals.

3.0 Consultation responses

3.1 Consultation responses were invited:

- Through the use of an online consultation survey for people to make online responses
- Using a printable template response form.
- By email directed to localplanreview@teignbridge.gov.uk ; or
- By letter.

3.2 A total of 22 organisations and individuals sent comments to the Council in the consultation period relating to the SCI. A summary of the issues raised are included in the schedule that forms part of this statement of public participation, together with how the issues raised have been addressed in the revised SCI, where relevant.

4.0 Summary of Consultation Responses

4.1 This is a summary of the comments received to the Draft Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) 2018.

4.2 There are a number of key issues which were raised during the consultation and which have resulted in amendments to the SCI. The main issues raised are summarised below:

- **Neighbourhood Plans:** Various responses felt that the SCI should have greater emphasis on Neighbourhood Planning. This has been addressed through the inclusion of specific sections relating to the advice and assistance we will provide to neighbourhood planning groups and the key stages involved in Neighbourhood Plan preparation.
- **Timing of Publication of the Draft SCI:** Concern was expressed that the draft SCI should have been consulted on in advance of the Local Plan Review and that there was a lack of awareness about the SCI consultation. The consultation on the draft SCI was done in accordance with not only the adopted SCI (2011) but also with the new principles set out in the draft Greater Exeter SCI (2019), which exceeded the previous standards. This resulted in a sufficiently comprehensive and robust consultation process.
- **Views of Local People:** Some respondents felt that the SCI should contain reference to named organisations representing local groups. However, it is not considered appropriate to do this as these groups may change during the lifetime of the SCI. Any individual or organisation wishing to be informed

of planning consultations can request at any time to be added to the Council's planning consultee database.

It was also felt that the views of local people should be better considered when decisions are made. All consultation comments received are fully considered and either full or summarised responses are provided to ensure transparency.

- **Length of Local Plan Documents:** A comment was made that the Local Plan Review documents are too technical and lengthy, which discourages involvement. As the consultation documents are planning policy documents, they require a certain amount of technical wording to be robust and defensible. We will endeavour to provide plain English summaries where it is appropriate to do so and to ensure that consultation documents will be clear and concise and will not include avoidable "jargon", without understating the complexities of any decision.
- **Site Notices:** There was a request that all nearby properties be written to when a planning application is submitted, rather than relying on a site notice and local press for publicity which may not be seen by all. The procedures carried out by the Council accord with the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended), Development Management Procedure Order and have also been approved by the Council's Planning Committee. The procedure varies according to the nature of the application received. However, officers do have discretion to provide additional publicity if it is deemed necessary.
- **Social media:** It was requested that the Council makes greater use of social media to engage the public in planning issues. We publicised this consultation via both Twitter and Facebook and continue to make a commitment in the SCI to raise awareness of consultations through the use of social media.