

DECISION NOTICE

Notice is given that the following decision has been taken under the Provisions set out in the Council's Constitution

Decision maker: Portfolio Holder for Planning

Decision in the matter of: Statement of Community Involvement Update 2020

Decision: That the Portfolio Holder approves the Statement of Community Involvement October 2020.

Background: The Statement of Community Involvement sets out how the Council will engage with stakeholders and the wider public on all of its principal planning functions. It is a legal document that must be followed when consultations and decisions are made on planning matters.

The Statement of Community Involvement has been updated to reflect recent government guidance related to the Covid-19 pandemic, and temporary changes to plan making regulations that support increased reliance on digital engagement.

The Covid-19 pandemic means that it is pragmatic to reduce the Councils reliance on enabling the public to access hard copies of planning documents in public buildings and instead, following updated government guidance on these matters, increasingly to focus on digital engagement. Therefore the obligations of the 2018 Statement of Community Involvement that required hard copies of planning policy documents to be accessible at the Councils primary offices and libraries is proposed to be removed, alongside requirements that committed the Council to hold public engagement events on such matters.

Where individuals are unable to digitally access relevant documents or are finding it difficult to do so, the Statement of Community Involvement sets out a number of measures that may be appropriate where such circumstances arise (such as pre-booking a specific time to access hard copies at a local library, following Covid-secure guidance).

Background Documents: Report to the Portfolio Holder for Planning entitled 'Statement of Community Involvement Update 2020'.

The background documents can be viewed by contacting the report author.

Approved: Councillor Toni Fox
Portfolio Holder for Planning

Date: 15 October 2020

**Executive
Director:** Frank Jordan
Executive Director Place