

**Minerals and Waste Development Framework  
Statement of Community Involvement: Third Revision**

Report of the Chief Planner

Please note that the following recommendations are subject to consideration and determination by the Committee before taking effect.

Recommendation: It is recommended that the Committee note and endorse the Third Revision of the Statement of Community Involvement, incorporating the minor changes to the Second Revision indicated in section 3 of this report, for publication on 28 September 2020.

**1. Summary**

- 1.1 This report seeks endorsement of the third revision of the Council's Statement of Community Involvement.

**2. Background**

- 2.1 Members will be aware that the County Council prepares Minerals and Waste Plans for the parts of Devon outside of the National Parks and the unitary Authorities of Plymouth and Torbay. As part of this process the Council is required to prepare and maintain a Statement of Community Involvement that sets out how the Council will engage with local communities and individuals in the preparation of its policy documents and determination of planning applications. The Council's original Statement of Community Involvement was published in 2007 and subsequently revised in 2013 and 2018, with the Second Revision available under the heading 'Community Involvement' at: <https://www.devon.gov.uk/planning/planning-policies/minerals-and-waste-policy>

**3. Third Revision of the Statement of Community Involvement**

- 3.1 While the current Statement of Community Involvement remains largely fit for purpose, there are two minor changes required as a result of recent events.
- 3.2 Paragraph 2.2.3 of Statement refers to community involvement in reviews of the Minerals and Waste Plans. At the time of publication of the Second Revision, the term 'review' was understood to refer to the process of changing part or all of an adopted Plan. However, Government guidance has subsequently clarified that 'review' is the process of assessing whether the policies in a Plan remain suitable, while the process of changing policies is 'updating'. As the review process is essentially a technical assessment of the evidence, it is not considered necessary for community involvement to be

undertaken at that stage, but such engagement would remain applicable if any updating of a Plan were to be undertaken. It is therefore proposed that paragraph 2.2.3 be amended to the following:

“The County Council is obliged to review its Minerals and Waste Plans every five years, or sooner if warranted by changing circumstances that may be identified through its annual monitoring programme. ~~The~~In the event that a review identifies a need for a Plan to be updated, the principles for community involvement in the SCI will apply to all future ~~reviews of~~ updates to these Plans.”

- 3.3 The Covid-19 event has required the closure of council offices to the public, resulting in planning applications not being available for inspection in person, although their availability online has continued. As the current Statement of Community Involvement indicates that planning applications are available for inspection at council offices, it is necessary to amend paragraph 3.4.2 and provide an additional paragraph to allow flexibility in these exceptional circumstances:

“Copies of planning application documents are normally available for inspection from the Development Management Team at Devon County Council, ~~Lucombe House Room 120~~, County Hall, Topsham Road, Exeter, EX2 4QD (it is advisable to contact the Team in advance to ensure that documents are available). Some copies will ~~will~~ may also be available for inspection at the relevant District Council.”

“In exceptional circumstances such as the 2020 Covid-19 outbreak, the County Council may need to offer a more limited approach to the availability of planning application documents if its offices are closed and/or public contact is not feasible. Such circumstances will be highlighted on the Council’s website, and online availability of documents will be maintained.”

- 3.4 In addition to the changes identified above, the opportunity will be taken to carry out minor corrections to reflect changes such as new website addresses.

#### **4. Reasons for Recommendation/Alternative Options Considered**

- 4.1 The maintenance of a Statement of Community Involvement is a statutory requirement and the Council is obliged to review it to reflect any changes in circumstances. There is thus no alternative to the proposed revision.

Mike Deaton  
Chief Planner

**Electoral Divisions: All**

Local Government Act 1972: List of Background Papers

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Background Paper	Date	File Ref
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None		
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sc/cr/minerals waste development framework statement of community involvement  
third revision