

Appendix 4: Review of the Statement of Community Involvement, adopted 2014

The table below outlines the results of a review of the contents of the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI, adopted 2014). The content is reviewed against the following potential changes:

- Legislation
- National policy
- Local policy
- Monitoring results
- Technological changes
- Other changes

The review concludes that the SCI is only out-of-date as it pertains to neighbourhood planning. An updated version of the SCI should be progressed, but its content can be relied upon for consultations on the Local Plan Partial Update.

Element of SCI	Result of Review
Statutory requirements (Section 2)	<p>Legislation: The 2004 Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act and the 2012 Regulations are still the main legislation governing consultation on development plans.</p> <p>National policy: N/A</p> <p>Local policy: N/A</p> <p>Monitoring: N/A</p> <p>Technological changes: N/A</p> <p>Other changes: N/A</p> <p>Conclusion: This part of the SCI remains up-to-date</p>
Duty to co-operate (Section 3)	<p>Legislation: Duty to co-operate remains in effect under Localism Act. It would be withdrawn by the Levelling-Up and Regeneration Act, but these elements are not yet in effect.</p> <p>National policy: There have been changes in the NPPF relating to the duty to co-operate, although these are not fundamental.</p> <p>Local policy: N/A</p> <p>Monitoring: Duty to co-operate measures are monitored in the Annual Monitoring Report, and this has not identified any issues requiring update.</p> <p>Technological changes: N/A</p> <p>Other changes: The publication of a Duty to Co-operate Scoping Strategy since the SCI was adopted does mean that updates to reflect the Strategy would be helpful, and these updates were proposed as a result of the 2019 review. However, this is a contextual element of the SCI and as such the potential for an update does not mean that the approach of the SCI is out of date.</p> <p>Conclusion: This part of the SCI does not deal specifically with the duty to co-operate, as it recognises that this is to be dealt with through a Duty to Co-operate Statement, which is separate. This information is therefore contextual and remains up-to-date</p>
Eight principles for community consultation (paragraph 4.1)	<p>Legislation: No legislation has come into force that conflicts with these principles</p> <p>National policy: National policy has not changed in a way which renders these principles redundant.</p>

	<p>Local policy: Although the document from which these principles was derived is now some years old (2012), there has been no successor document published and the principles therefore remain valid.</p> <p>Monitoring: Nothing has emerged from monitoring that suggests an update is needed.</p> <p>Technological changes: Although use of technology in consultation has increased over time, these general principles still remain essential.</p> <p>Other changes: None identified</p> <p>Conclusion: This part of the SCI remains up-to-date.</p>
<p>Accessibility and choice (paragraph 4.3)</p>	<p>Legislation: Legislation now requires that Councils publish accessible documents. However, the principles already state that materials will be designed to maximise accessibility, and it is not considered that a change is required.</p> <p>National policy: National policy has not changed in a way which affects this principle.</p> <p>Local policy: Local policy has not changed in a way which affects this principle.</p> <p>Monitoring: Nothing has emerged from monitoring that suggests an update is needed.</p> <p>Technological changes: As set out above, published documents need to be accessible, but this does not lead to a need for a change.</p> <p>Other changes: None identified</p> <p>Conclusion: This part of the SCI remains up-to-date.</p>
<p>Timeliness (paragraph 4.4)</p>	<p>Legislation: No changes that affect this part of the document.</p> <p>National policy: National policy has not changed in a way which affects this principle.</p> <p>Local policy: Local policy has not changed in a way which affects this principle.</p> <p>Monitoring: In practice, due to the timing of Committees, the Council has relatively frequently needed to consult over holiday periods. Where this is the case, as specified in the SCI, the time has been extended to at least 8 weeks. Not considered that an update is needed.</p> <p>Technological changes: No changes that affect this part of the document.</p> <p>Other changes: None identified</p> <p>Conclusion: This part of the SCI remains up-to-date.</p>
<p>Inclusiveness and equity (paragraph 4.5)</p>	<p>Legislation: No changes that affect this part of the document.</p> <p>National policy: National policy has not changed in a way which affects this principle.</p> <p>Local policy: Local policy has not changed in a way which affects this principle.</p> <p>Monitoring: Although not specifically monitored, it remains a challenge to engage the groups identified in this section, i.e. younger people, BME communities and people living in less affluent parts of the Borough. The Council continues to seek to address this, e.g. through targeted social media campaigns, but in general this principle remains valid.</p> <p>Technological changes: No changes that affect this part of the document.</p> <p>Other changes: None identified</p>

	<p>Conclusion: This part of the SCI remains up-to-date.</p>
Transparency and honesty (paragraph 4.6)	<p>Legislation: No changes that affect this part of the document.</p> <p>National policy: National policy has not changed in a way which affects this principle.</p> <p>Local policy: Local policy has not changed in a way which affects this principle.</p> <p>Monitoring: No changes that affect this part of the document.</p> <p>Technological changes: No changes that affect this part of the document.</p> <p>Other changes: It has not always been possible to publish all background evidence at the time that a consultation is carried out. However, it remains important to do so where this is possible and this principle therefore remains valid.</p> <p>Conclusion: This part of the SCI remains up-to-date.</p>
Respect and listening (paragraph 4.7)	<p>Legislation: No changes that affect this part of the document.</p> <p>National policy: National policy has not changed in a way which affects this principle.</p> <p>Local policy: Local policy has not changed in a way which affects this principle.</p> <p>Monitoring: No changes that affect this part of the document. These principles have been complied with for planning documents.</p> <p>Technological changes: No changes that affect this part of the document.</p> <p>Other changes: No changes identified.</p> <p>Conclusion: This part of the SCI remains up-to-date.</p>
Accountability (paragraph 4.8)	<p>Legislation: No changes that affect this part of the document.</p> <p>National policy: National policy has not changed in a way which affects this principle.</p> <p>Local policy: Local policy has not changed in a way which affects this principle.</p> <p>Monitoring: No changes that affect this part of the document. These principles have been complied with for planning documents. A Statement of Consultation is always published responding to the points made.</p> <p>Technological changes: No changes that affect this part of the document.</p> <p>Other changes: No changes identified.</p> <p>Conclusion: This part of the SCI remains up-to-date.</p>
Flexibility and evolution (paragraph 4.9)	<p>Legislation: No changes that affect this part of the document.</p> <p>National policy: National policy has not changed in a way which affects this principle.</p> <p>Local policy: Local policy has not changed in a way which affects this principle.</p> <p>Monitoring: No changes that affect this part of the document. These principles have been complied with for planning documents. Feedback is sought and lessons learned included in Statements of Consultation. None of the specific lessons learned render any of the general principles in the SCI out of date.</p>

	<p>Technological changes: No changes that affect this part of the document.</p> <p>Other changes: No changes identified.</p> <p>Conclusion: This part of the SCI remains up-to-date.</p>
Resources – moving to electronic communications (section 5)	<p>Legislation: No changes that affect this part of the document.</p> <p>National policy: National policy has not changed in a way which affects this principle.</p> <p>Local policy: Local policy has not changed in a way which affects this principle.</p> <p>Monitoring: No specific monitoring of this element.</p> <p>Technological changes: Increased availability of technology has underlined the comments in this section and meant that applying the principles has not generated significant issues so far.</p> <p>Other changes: No changes identified.</p> <p>Conclusion: This part of the SCI remains up-to-date.</p>
Resources – combining consultations where possible (section 5)	<p>Legislation: No changes that affect this part of the document.</p> <p>National policy: National policy has not changed in a way which affects this principle.</p> <p>Local policy: Local policy has not changed in a way which affects this principle.</p> <p>Monitoring: No specific monitoring of this element.</p> <p>Technological changes: No changes identified.</p> <p>Other changes: Opportunities have rarely arisen for planning consultations to be combined with consultations relating to other matters. In general, where consultations have been combined, they have been planning documents. However, it remains an important principle if it can be achieved.</p> <p>Conclusion: This part of the SCI remains up-to-date.</p>
Local plan – pre-preparation (paragraphs 6.3-6.5)	<p>Legislation: No changes that affect this part of the document.</p> <p>National policy: National policy has not changed in a way which affects this principle.</p> <p>Local policy: Local policy has not changed in a way which affects this principle.</p> <p>Monitoring: No specific monitoring of this element.</p> <p>Technological changes: Technology has changed in a way that now allows easy access to online workshops and events. The Council made use of this at Reg 18 stage. However, the SCI does not specify which types will be used, and it remains the case that a mix of in-person and online events will be appropriate, depending on the document and circumstances.</p> <p>Other changes: No other changes.</p> <p>Conclusion: This part of the SCI remains up-to-date.</p>
Local plan – pre-submission draft (paragraphs 6.6-6.8)	<p>Legislation: No changes that affect this part of the document.</p> <p>National policy: National policy has not changed in a way which affects this principle.</p> <p>Local policy: Local policy has not changed in a way which affects this principle.</p> <p>Monitoring: No specific monitoring of this element.</p>

	<p>Technological changes: None of the principles in this section are impacted by any technological changes.</p> <p>Other changes: No other changes.</p> <p>Conclusion: This part of the SCI remains up-to-date.</p>
Local plan – examination (paragraphs 6.9-6.10)	<p>Legislation: No changes that affect this part of the document.</p> <p>National policy: National policy has changed the tests of soundness since the SCI was prepared, but none of those changes impact the contents of this section.</p> <p>Local policy: Local policy has not changed in a way which affects this principle.</p> <p>Monitoring: No specific monitoring of this element.</p> <p>Technological changes: None of the principles in this section are impacted by any technological changes.</p> <p>Other changes: No other changes.</p> <p>Conclusion: This part of the SCI remains up-to-date.</p>
Local plan – adoption (paragraph 6.11)	<p>Legislation: No changes that affect this part of the document.</p> <p>National policy: No changes that affect this part of the document.</p> <p>Local policy: Local policy has not changed in a way which affects this principle.</p> <p>Monitoring: No specific monitoring of this element.</p> <p>Technological changes: None of the principles in this section are impacted by any technological changes.</p> <p>Other changes: No other changes.</p> <p>Conclusion: This part of the SCI remains up-to-date.</p>
Supplementary planning documents (paragraphs 6.12-6.20)	<p>Legislation: The Levelling-Up and Regeneration Act 2023 replaces SPDs with Supplementary Plans, that will need to go through examination and would have development plan status. This part of the Act is yet to be brought into force, When it is, the SCI will need to be updated, but this will need to be informed by Regulations that do not yet exist.</p> <p>National policy: No changes that affect this part of the document.</p> <p>Local policy: Local policy has not changed in a way which affects this principle.</p> <p>Monitoring: No specific monitoring of this element.</p> <p>Technological changes: Technology has changed in a way that now allows easy access to online workshops and events. The Council made use of this for the Shopfronts SPD for example. However, the SCI does not specify which types will be used, and it remains the case that a mix of in-person and online events will be appropriate, depending on the document and circumstances.</p> <p>Other changes: No other changes.</p> <p>Conclusion: This part of the SCI remains up-to-date.</p>
Neighbourhood plans (paragraphs 6.21-6.22)	<p>Legislation: In the 2019 review of the SCI, it was noted that there is a statutory requirement introduced by the Neighbourhood Planning Act 2017 for SCIs to set out the local planning authority’s policies for giving advice or assistance on neighbourhood development plans and orders. Even though there are currently no neighbourhood forums in Reading, this does mean that this section of the SCI is out of date. Proposed text to address this emerged from the 2019 review and was subject to consultation.</p>

	<p>National policy: There have been a number of changes relating to neighbourhood planning in national policy over the years. The current SCI is not specific on any of these matters, and the national policy changes do not render anything in the SCI out of date.</p> <p>Local policy: Local policy has not changed in a way which affects this principle.</p> <p>Monitoring: There has been no neighbourhood plan making in Reading, and no formation of any neighbourhood forums.</p> <p>Technological changes: None of the text in the current SCI is affected by any technological changes.</p> <p>Other changes: No other changes.</p> <p>Conclusion: The part of the SCI relating to neighbourhood planning is out-of-date, as identified in the 2019 review. The SCI should be updated, and should any proposals for neighbourhood plans emerge, reference should be made to the proposed amended text as was subject to consultation.</p>
<p>Development proposals – pre-application consultation on significant or sensitive proposals (paragraphs 7.1-7.6)</p>	<p>Legislation: No legislation affects this part of the document</p> <p>National policy: No changes that affect this part of the document, and the NPPF has not changed in terms of the context set in this section.</p> <p>Local policy: Local policy has not changed in a way which affects this principle.</p> <p>Monitoring: No changes that affect this part of the document.</p> <p>Technological changes: Technology has changed in a way that can be used for pre-application engagement, but the SCI is not currently specific on use of technology and it is not appropriate to be prescriptive as different communities will need to engage in different ways.</p> <p>Other changes: No other changes.</p> <p>Conclusion: This part of the SCI remains up-to-date.</p>
<p>Development proposals – consultation on planning applications (paragraph 7.7)</p>	<p>Legislation: This part of the document merely states that planning application consultations will be carried out in line with the relevant statutory requirements, and therefore any legislative changes would not render the SCI out of date.</p> <p>National policy: National policy has not changed in a way which affects this principle.</p> <p>Local policy: Local policy has not changed in a way which affects this principle.</p> <p>Monitoring: No changes that affect this part of the document.</p> <p>Technological changes: This section is not impacted by any technological changes.</p> <p>Other changes: No other changes.</p> <p>Conclusion: This part of the SCI remains up-to-date.</p>