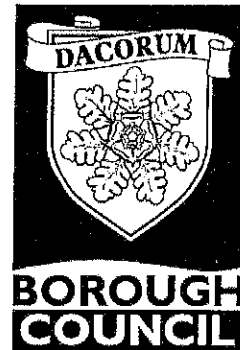


BERKHAMSTED  
TOWN COUNCIL

27 FEB 2019

Date: 25<sup>th</sup> February 2019  
Our Ref: SCJ  
Contact: Stephen Mendham  
Email: [strategic.planning@dacorum.gov.uk](mailto:strategic.planning@dacorum.gov.uk)  
Directline: 01442 228660



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Dear Sir or Madam,

## DRAFT STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

I enclose copies of the Council's draft Statement of Community Involvement. Please can you leave this document on display for public consultation from **1<sup>st</sup> March 2019 until midnight 14<sup>th</sup> April 2019**.

Dacorum Borough Council is in the process of updating its Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) and would like your feedback on the new draft document.

All local Councils are required by Government to produce an SCI. Its role is to outline the Council's standards for community involvement in the planning process and to identify ways we will achieve these standards. It sets out the Council's approach to public consultation in two areas of planning:

- **Planning Policies:** the preparation, alteration and continuing review of planning policy documents; and
- **Planning Applications:** consultation on planning applications.

In particular, it explains when we will consult the community in relation to planning applications, development plan documents and supplementary planning documents; what publicity and consultation we will expect from applicants before they submit a planning application; how we will engage with the community and who we will involve.

The Council adopted its current SCI in July 2016. It therefore needs updating to ensure that it reflects new Government requirements set out in current Planning Acts and Regulations and the increasing use of electronic communication.



**Dacorum**

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Whilst there is no longer a legal requirement for Councils to consult on their SCIs, we are asking groups, companies and individuals who have a particular interest in planning within Dacorum for their feedback on changes in the new draft document.

Much of the text of the current SCI has been retained, with minor changes made to the format to update and include new coverage and simplify the text to make it easier to follow (as necessary). The main changes are

**Within Part A**, 'Community Involvement in Dacorum's Plan-making and Planning Policy', a number of diagrams have been introduced to help illustrate the opportunities for community engagement associated with different types of planning policy documents the Council may prepare. Further detail has also been added to explain community engagement processes associated with neighbourhood planning and the level of support the Council is able to provide to assist with such plans.

**Within Part B**, 'Community Involvement in the South West Herts Joint Strategic Plan (JSP)', this is a new section in the SCI which sets out how the South West Herts authorities will jointly engage with the wider communities across the area as it prepares the new South West Herts JSP. In broad terms, the principles of engagement on the SW Herts JSP reflect those which will be followed by the Council in preparing Dacorum's Local Plan.

**Within Part C**, 'Community Involvement in the Planning Application process', the text has been expanded to better explain the types of applications the Council gets involved with, how the council will notify and consult with local people in respect of those applications and the types of comments that can or cannot be taken into account when assessing planning applications. New explanation has been added on what to do if a member of the public considers development may have happened or be happening, without permission.

Copies of the document are available for inspection:

- on the Council's website <http://www.dacorum.gov.uk/home/planning-development/planning-strategic-planning/statement-of-community-involvement>
- at the Council's offices in Hemel Hempstead, Berkhamsted or Tring during their normal opening hours
- at public libraries in the Borough

**Please let us know your views on the changes made in this redrafted document**

It is important to recognise that the SCI must represent a realistic use of the resources the Council has available. The role of the SCI is to set out the minimum standards: there is always the flexibility to undertake additional consultation above and beyond that specified in particular cases and if sufficient staff and/or financial resources allow.

**The deadline for feedback on the draft SCI is midnight Sunday, 14<sup>th</sup> April 2019.**  
Comments should be sent:


By email: [responses@dacorum.gov.uk](mailto:responses@dacorum.gov.uk)

By post: Strategic Planning and Regeneration Team  
Dacorum Borough Council  
The Forum  
Marlowes  
Hemel Hempstead  
Herts  
HP1 1DN

Once the feedback process is completed, all the responses will be considered by the Council's Cabinet and any necessary changes made to the document before it is formally adopted and comes into force later this year.

For further information, please call 01442 228660 or email [strategic.planning@dacorum.gov.uk](mailto:strategic.planning@dacorum.gov.uk)

Yours faithfully,



Andrew Horner  
Team Leader  
**Strategic Planning & Regeneration**