South Cambridgeshire District Council

General Exception Notice

Decision Maker
Cabinet on 12 March 2024

Date General Exception Notice Published
14 February 2024

Issue and why it cannot be deferred

The Greater Cambridge Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) sets out how the Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council will engage on planning matters and must be reviewed at least every five years. The current SCI was adopted in 2019 and will therefore be five years old in June 2024.

A draft SCI was considered by Cabinet in September 2023 and approve the document for consultation. This report provides the results of the consultation and proposes adoption of the final document. The review of the SCI has considered matters including enhanced digital opportunities, lessons learned since the Covid-19 pandemic, opportunities to enhance participation on planning applications including youth engagement and has reviewed the neighbourhood plan support offer. Consideration of the SCI cannot be deferred for the following reasons: the updated SCI needs to be confirmed by both Councils in good time ahead of the five year anniversary of the current SCI. Cambridge City Council will consider it on 19 March 2024 ahead of their pre-election period. To delay the South Cambridgeshire decision could result in extended delay in the joint adoption of the document.

Recommendation

a) That Cabinet considers the main issues raised in the public consultation, agrees responses to the representations received and agrees proposed changes to the Statement of Community Involvement as set out in the Statement of Consultation (Appendix 1 to the report);

b) That, subject to (a) above, Cabinet adopts the amended Greater Cambridge Statement of Community Involvement (Appendix 2); and

c) That Cabinet delegates to the Joint Director of Planning and Economic Development, in consultation with the Lead Cabinet Member for Planning the authority to make any necessary editing changes to the SCI prior to publication.