

Shropshire Council Equality and Social Inclusion Impact Assessment (ESIIA)
Part One Screening Record 2020 to 2021

A. Summary Sheet on Accountability and Actions

Name of proposed service change

Shropshire Council Statement of Community Involvement 2021 – Revision of existing statement.

Name of lead officer carrying out the screening

Ian Kilby Head of Planning Services

Decision, review and monitoring

Decision	Yes	No
Part One ESIIA Only?	✓	
Proceed to Part Two Full Report?		✓

If completion of a Part One assessment is an appropriate and proportionate action at this stage, please use the boxes below and sign off as indicated. If a Part Two report is required, please move on to full report stage.

Actions to mitigate negative impact or enhance positive impact of the service change in terms of equality and social inclusion considerations

The Statement of Community Involvement outlines how Shropshire Council will consult on planning policies and planning applications. The previous SCI was adopted by Shropshire Council in February 2011. It has been reviewed and updated in 2021 to reflect changes to National Policy. As part of this process a public consultation on the SCI took place in December 2020/January 2021 and feedback from the consultation has been considered in the development of the new Statement of Community Involvement.

The SCI highlights the opportunities electronic communication brings to consultation by allowing people to take part and give their views at a time and place that is suitable to them. However, the SCI also acknowledges that other methods of communication need to be provided to provide people with opportunities to have their views heard, and that some sections of the community are under-represented in consultations on planning issues. The ability to access information in different formats and languages is reflected in the SCI

It is anticipated the revised SCI will generate a positive impact for the following groups in particular:

- Hard to reach in rural areas such as families, children and young people, older people, rural businesses, gypsies and travellers, and low-income households;
- Vulnerable households in market towns, including families, older people and people on low incomes.

There will be ongoing efforts to engage with people in the Protected Characteristic groupings, particularly where low levels of responses to public consultation have been received to date, and new methods of communication such as social media will be explored through the SCI.

The SCI also highlights the important role played by Shropshire Council Members in their community leadership role to communicate and involve their communities in the consultation process and encourage them to get involved. The role of Town and Parish Councils in this process is also reflected in the SCI. Training for Councillors in these roles will be provided to help them in this role.

Actions to review and monitor the impact of the service change in terms of equality and social inclusion considerations

The revised Statement of Community Involvement is likely to have a positive effect on all groups in society and is intended to do so, given its aim of involving more people in the planning process.

The SCI will encourage involvement in the planning process by sharing information online, making it accessible to a wide audience, and will be monitored through responses to planning consultations and planning applications. Details of consultation responses are reviewed by Shropshire Council and summaries provided on our website. Through the Planning Portal comments made by the public and statutory consultees are available to view online.

Associated ESIIAs

There are no ESIIA's directly linked to the Statement of Community Involvement, however various ESIIA's have been undertaken in relation to the Local Plan Review

These are

- Shropshire Local Plan Partial Review: Sixth Stage: Regulation 19: Pre-Submission Draft of the Local Plan, December 2020
- Local Plan Partial Review Stage One: Issues and Strategic Options; January 2017;
- Local Plan Partial Review Stage Two: Preferred Scale and Distribution of Development; October 2017;
- Shropshire Local Plan Partial Review: Third Stage: Preferred Sites, November 2018
- Shropshire Local Plan Partial Review: Fourth Stage: Strategic Sites, July 2019
- Shropshire Local Plan Partial Review: Fourth Stage: Regulation 18: Pre-Submission Draft of the Shropshire Local Plan, August 2020.

These screening assessments accompanied reports to Cabinet and are published on the website at www.shropshire.gov.uk

Actions to mitigate negative impact, enhance positive impact, and review and monitor overall impacts in terms of any other considerations. This includes climate change and health and well being considerations

As noted above the revised Statement of Community Involvement is likely to have a positive impact on all groups in Shropshire.

The SCI recognises the opportunities digital services can allow a greater number of people to have their say on planning issues, at a time and place that is suitable for their lifestyle and home life.

It should be noted that recent Planning consultations and Planning applications have generated significant numbers of comments from across Shropshire, using a variety of responses including online, letters, written responses and through statutory and public bodies. The SCI will build on a strong basis of people getting involved and explore different communication channels through which people can. Whilst not directly linked to climate change the move to more digital forms of communication will reduce the amount of “hard copies” of reports, policies and plans that need to be produced for consultations, whilst still giving members of the public access to these documents electronically

Scrutiny at Part One screening stage

People involved	Signatures	Date
<i>Lead officer carrying out the screening</i>	I.Kilby	
<i>Any internal support*</i>	M. Mead	
<i>Any external support**</i>	L.Dale	

**This refers to other officers within the service area*

***This refers either to support external to the service but within the Council, eg from the Rurality and Equalities Specialist, or support external to the Council, eg from a peer authority*

Sign off at Part One screening stage

Name	Signatures	Date
<i>Lead officer's name</i>	I.Kilby	
<i>Accountable officer's name</i>		

**This may either be the Head of Service or the lead officer*

B. Detailed Screening Assessment

Aims of the service change and description
<p>The Statement of Community Involvement is a requirement of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2012 and The <i>Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004</i> which requires Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) to produce a Statement which informs communities and stakeholders how they will be consulted on planning matters.</p> <p>The previous SCI was adopted by Shropshire Council in February 2011. It has been reviewed and updated in 2021 to reflect changes to National Policy. As part of this process a public consultation on the SCI took place in December 2020/January 2021 and feedback from the consultation has been considered in the development of the new Statement of Community Involvement.</p>

Intended audiences and target groups for the service change
--

- Communities across Shropshire and the organisations which represent them, including town and parish councils and the voluntary and community sector;
- Organisations with strategic and cross boundary economic and environmental interests, including neighbouring local authorities, and the Marches Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP);
- A range of stakeholders, including the development industry, local businesses, housing associations, utilities companies, and the land based sector;

Evidence used for screening of the service change
 Many of the existing policies in the Statement of Community Involvement do not need to be extensively amended. Key aspects of them are to be carried forward as part of the new Plan

Specific consultation and engagement with intended audiences and target groups for the service change
 Consultation on the Statement of Community Involvement took place for 6 weeks between December 2020 and January 2021 using the Shropshire Council “Get involved” consultation portal. Details of the consultation were also shared with individuals and organisation on the Planning consultee database held by Shropshire Council

Initial assessment for each group
 Please rate the impact that you perceive the service change is likely to have on a group, through inserting a tick for positive or cross for negative in the relevant column.
 Please add any extra notes that you think might be helpful for readers.

Protected Characteristic groups and other groups in Shropshire	High negative impact <i>Part Two ESIIA required</i>	High positive impact <i>Part One ESIIA required</i>	Medium positive or negative impact <i>Part One ESIIA required</i>	Low positive or negative impact <i>Part One ESIIA required</i>
Age (please include children, young people, young people leaving care, people of working age, older people. Some people may belong to more than one group eg child or young person for whom there are safeguarding concerns eg older person with disability)			✓+	
Disability (please include: mental health conditions and syndromes including autism; physical and sensory disabilities or impairments; learning disabilities; Multiple Sclerosis; cancer; HIV)				✓+
Gender re-assignment (please include associated aspects: safety, caring responsibility, potential for bullying and harassment)				✓+
Marriage and Civil Partnership (please include				

associated aspects: caring responsibility, potential for bullying and harassment)				✓+
Pregnancy & Maternity (please include associated aspects: safety, caring responsibility, potential for bullying and harassment)				✓+
Race (please include: ethnicity, nationality, culture, language, gypsy, traveller)				✓+
Religion and belief (please include: Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Jainism, Judaism, Non conformists; Rastafarianism; Sikhism, Shinto, Taoism, Zoroastrianism, and any others)				✓+
Sex (this can also be viewed as relating to gender. Please include associated aspects: safety, caring responsibility, potential for bullying and harassment)				✓+
Sexual Orientation (please include associated aspects: safety; caring responsibility; potential for bullying and harassment)				✓+
Other: Social Inclusion (please include families and friends with caring responsibilities; households in poverty; people for whom there are safeguarding concerns; people you consider to be vulnerable; people with health inequalities; refugees and asylum seekers; rural communities; veterans and serving members of the armed forces)				✓+

Identification of likely impact of the service change in terms of other considerations including climate change and health and well being

The review of the Statement of Community Involvement us not anticipated to make an impact on climate change and health and well being to a significant level.

However, the SCI builds one existing work to make planning documents and consultations more easily available to communities and partner organisations and encourages people to have their say on planning issues.