

FORM 1

NOTICE OF DELEGATION OF DECISION TO CABINET MEMBER BY STRONG LEADER

Section 15(4) of the Local Government Act 2000, the senior executive member may discharge any of the functions that are the responsibility of the Cabinet or may arrange for them to be discharged by another member of the Cabinet or Officer. On 1st December 2010, the Council adopted the Strong Leader Model for Corporate Governance 2011 as required under Part 3 of The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 (The 2007 Act).

I, Cllr Graham Ballinger, as Strong Leader, delegate the decision to agree to the Wyre Forest District Council's response to the Consultation on the Worcestershire County Council's draft Statement of Community Involvement, 2021 update, as detailed in the Forward Plan to the Cabinet Member detailed below:

Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration, Planning and Localism

Dated: 9th March 2021

Signed:



Leader of the Council

FORM 2

NOTICE OF DECISION OF CABINET MEMBER

Pursuant Section 15(4) of the Local Government Act 2000, as amended by section 63 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, the senior executive member may discharge any of the functions that are the responsibility of the Cabinet or may arrange for them to be discharged by another member of the Cabinet or Officer. On 1st December 2010, the Council adopted the Strong Leader Model for Corporate Governance 2011 as required under Part 3 of The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 (The 2007 Act).

In accordance with the authority delegated to *me / by the Leader* (delete as appropriate), I have made the following decision:

Subject	Decision	Reason for decision	Date for Decision to be taken
Worcestershire County Council is consulting on the Draft Statement of Community Involvement (SCI), Update 2021 as required by law.	To agree to the Wyre Forest District Council's response to the Consultation on the Worcestershire County Council's draft Statement of Community Involvement, 2021 update	As a specific consultation body Wyre Forest District Council has been invited to comment on the Worcestershire County Council draft Statement of Community Involvement, 2021 update in Appendix 1.	9 th March 2021

I confirm that the appropriate statutory officer consultation has taken place with regard to this decision.

Dated: 9th March 2021

Signed: *H.E. Dyke*

Councillor:Helen Dyke.....
Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration, Planning and Localism

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

Strong Leader Report

Consultation on the Worcestershire County Council's draft Statement of Community Involvement, 2021 update

OPEN	
DIRECTOR:	Corporate Director: Economic Prosperity & Place
CONTACT OFFICER:	Daniel Atiyah – Planning Policy Officer
APPENDICES:	Wyre Forest District Council's response to the Consultation on the Worcestershire County Council's draft Statement of Community Involvement, 2021 update.

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To agree the Wyre Forest District Council response to the Consultation on the Worcestershire County Council's draft Statement of Community Involvement, 2021 update.

2. RECOMMENDATION

The Cabinet Member is asked to DECIDE:

To agree the Wyre Forest District Council's response to the Consultation on the Worcestershire County Council's draft Statement of Community Involvement, 2021 update.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Worcestershire County Council is consulting on the Draft Statement of Community Involvement (SCI), Update 2021. All Local Planning Authorities are required by law to prepare an SCI. This will be the second review of the SCI since the Council's original SCI was first adopted in 2006 (the SCI was initially reviewed, and a revised document was adopted in 2015). Regulation 10A (1)b of The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended) requires that the SCI is reviewed every five years.

- 3.2 The SCI sets out how Worcestershire County Council consults regarding the planning of minerals and waste management, libraries, schools, roads, and railway stations.
- 3.3 The Consultation on the Statement of Community Involvement runs from 3 February until 18 March 2021.
- 3.4 Wyre Forest District Council is a specific consultation body under the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 and has been requested by Worcestershire County Council for a response.

4. **KEY ISSUES**

4.1 The issues raised within the proposed response (Appendix 1) include matters relating to:

- Reference to Covid-19
- Reference to The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) (Coronavirus) (Amendment) Regulations 2020.
- Reference to other recent SCI's and suggestions for further modifications to draft text.
- Reference to suggested minor text and typing changes.

5. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

6. **LEGAL AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 The Council is a statutory consultee on this matter.

7. EQUALITY IMPACT NEEDS ASSESSMENT

7.1 Not applicable.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT

8.1 The Council aims to minimise the risk for future consultation practices by responding to this consultation to influence the final SCI to be adopted.

9. CONCLUSION

9.1 As a specific consultation body Wyre Forest District Council has been invited to comment on the Worcestershire County Council draft Statement of Community Involvement, 2021 update. Appendix 1 sets out the council's response.

10. CONSULTEES

10.1 Corporate Leadership Team.

11. BACKGROUND PAPER

11.1 Worcestershire County Council draft Statement of Community Involvement, 201 Update- [Community Involvement | Community Involvement | Worcestershire County Council.](#)

12. APPENDIX 1

12.1 Wyre Forest District Council's response to the Consultation on the Worcestershire County Council's draft Statement of Community Involvement, 2021 update.

WFDC response to the Worcestershire County Council Draft Statement of Community Involvement, 2021 update

1. Wyre Forest District Council welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Worcestershire County Council (WCC) Draft Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) 2021 update.
2. Although the impact of Covid-19 has been discussed concerning the Statement of Community Involvement on the WCC website, the document does not appear to reference this.
3. Other recent SCI's have addressed this. For example, Gloucestershire County Council's SCI (Adopted 2020) includes an addendum concerning the Coronavirus (Covid 19) Pandemic¹. It might be beneficial for the WCC SCI to also address this.
4. The SCI also does not specifically refer to The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) (Coronavirus) (Amendment) Regulations 2020² which has amended the existing 2012 regulations. The amendments to the 2012 regulations have removed the requirement on local planning authorities to make hard copy documents available for public inspection at the authority's principal office or other places the authority considers appropriate. The amendments to the regulations applied from 16 July to 31 December 2020. This may be extended further for the duration of the Covid-19 outbreak in 2021. It is expected that in the future community engagements will be a hybrid of digital and live events.
5. The SCI also does not reference the Planning White Paper 'Planning for the Future'³. Greater digital engagement is expected from Local Planning Authorities in future consultation processes. This could perhaps also be referenced in the SCI. Other Local Planning Authorities (LPA) have reference this such as Uttlesford District Council⁴.
6. Paragraph 1.2 refers to the NPPF. In January 2021, the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) has released a draft text for consultation⁵. Paragraph 124 in the text is proposed to become paragraph 125 with an additional comment on beautiful and sustainable buildings.
7. Regarding paragraph 1.15 should the header be 'Principle for Public Involvement' rather than 'Princip'?
8. The footnotes on pages 3,8, and 18 appear to be of different fonts and sizes. For clarity one text and font size would be more appropriate.

¹ Statement of Community Involvement, Gloucestershire County Council (June 2020), [sci-for-gloucestershire-2nd-review-revised-covid-19-version-adopted-june-2020.pdf](#)

² [The Town and Country Planning \(Local Planning\) \(England\) \(Coronavirus\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2020 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#)

³ [Planning for the future - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

⁴ Statement of Community Involvement, Uttlesford District Council (October 2020), Paragraphs 2.5-2.6, [SCI 2020 draft for consultation\(a\).pdf \(uttlesford.gov.uk\)](#)

⁵ [National Planning Policy Framework and National Model Design Code: consultation proposals - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

9. Appendix 1: Profile of Worcestershire could benefit by including a map of Worcestershire. Additionally, some of the statistical information could be better represented using charts or graphs. This would be consistent with the White Paper to make the plan-making process more visual and map-based.
10. A table listing the consultees that the County Council engages with during plan making could be beneficial. This would make it clear to the reader what the definition of consultee means. For example, Gloucestershire County Council's SCI includes such a table⁶.
11. Wyre Forest District Council welcomes further ongoing discussions with Worcestershire County Council regarding the Statement of Community Involvement 2021 update.

⁶ Statement of Community Involvement, Gloucestershire County Council (June 2020), Table 1, p7