



Statement of Community Involvement (2017) (Amended 2021)

Temporary update in response to Covid-19 guidance (March 2022)

In 2020, the Government issued Planning Guidance stating that local planning authorities should make any temporary amendments that are necessary to their SCIs to ensure that there are no conflicts between particular commitments within the document and the Government's latest Covid-19 guidance on staying safe. This is to ensure the safety of our communities, key partners, businesses and Council staff. The Council's first 'Temporary Update' was produced in July 2020 and this has now been reviewed and updated to reflect the latest Government guidance, published in February 2022.

The table below highlights those sections of the SCI which deal with in-person engagement and the use of public facilities, and provides the Council's updated guidance in respect of these matters.

Section of SCI	Issue	Update
<p>Paragraphs 60-63 (Consultation methods) pp. 17-18</p> <p>Paragraph 65 and following tables (How will we consult people at different stages in the plan making process?) pp. 20-28</p> <p>Appendix 3 (Consultation methods) pp. 39-40</p>	<p>Paragraph 61 presents a list of different involvement and publicity methods for consideration at different stages (re-iterated in the subsequent tables and in Appendix 3), some of which involve face-to-face engagement with communities and stakeholders. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Exhibitions - Meetings - Focus groups - Workshops 	<p>Public events can now be held once again. Any in-person events organised by the Council will follow the prevailing Government guidance at that particular time. The Council will, in undertaking any events, consider what measures can be implemented to ensure that attendees can stay safe.</p> <p>During the early stages of plan making the Council will also consider the use of virtual methods to engage with community and stakeholder bodies, including online exhibitions, virtual presentations and virtual meetings.</p>

Section of SCI	Issue	Update
<p>Paragraphs 60-63 (Consultation methods) pp. 17-18</p>	<p>Paragraph 60 states that the Council will always have hard copies of consultation information available for inspection at the Council's office.</p> <p>In addition, paragraph 61 mentions making consultation material available at libraries in the district, where appropriate. Again this is reiterated in the subsequent tables and within Appendix 3.</p> <p>Normal library services are gradually being restored across the district and the Council offices are open to the public on an appointment-only basis.</p>	<p>The Council offices are currently open to the public by appointment only. They will still be used for making hard copies of documents available, but information will make it clear that this will need to be by appointment only and will provide details of how to arrange such an appointment.</p> <p>Libraries will be used wherever possible for making hard copy documents available for inspection. This will be clearly publicised within consultation details.</p> <p>Details of library opening times and services are available from: www.norfolk.gov.uk/libraries-local-history-and-archives/libraries</p>
<p>Paragraph 72 (The pre-application stage; Community Involvement in Planning Proposals and Applications) p.30</p>	<p>The paragraph states that applicants are encouraged to engage directly with the local community before submitting their applications to the Council so that local people can have their say about the proposed development before a planning application is submitted.</p>	<p>As set out above, public events can now be held once again. It is expected that any in-person events organised by developers follow the prevailing Government guidance at that particular time. In undertaking any events, developers should consider what measures can be implemented to ensure that attendees can stay safe.</p> <p>Developers should also consider the use of virtual methods to engage with community and stakeholder bodies, including online exhibitions, virtual presentations and virtual meetings.</p> <p>The Council is happy to advise applicants on suitable pre-application consultation methods on a case-by-case basis.</p>

Section of SCI	Issue	Update
Paragraph 75 (The planning application stage – viewing application details)	This paragraph states that notices and letters will make it clear when and where the application(s) can be viewed.	The Council offices are currently open by appointment only . Anyone wishing to make an appointment to view an application file should contact the Planning Business Support team on (01508) 533813.
Paragraph 78 (The planning application stage – speaking at Planning Committee)	This paragraph sets out the procedure should a member of the public wish to speak at Planning Committee.	<p>The Council will continue to run Planning Committee in person and within the Council Chamber, as scheduled. Anyone wishing to speak at Committee will be required to register to speak and to attend the meeting in person, in the normal manner.</p> <p>However, Planning Committee meetings are now live-streamed by the Council and anyone wishing to simply observe the proceedings can do so by watching the meeting remotely.</p> <p>Further details are available on the South Norfolk Council website.</p>
Appendix 4: Neighbourhood Planning Support, pp. 39-40	<p>This section sets out the range of support that officers are able to provide to Neighbourhood Plan groups in the district.</p> <p>The areas of support listed include various forms of face-to-face engagement, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Meeting with parish/town councillors; - Officer attendance at meetings; - Neighbourhood Plan Network meetings; - Providing training through a variety of means; 	<p>Due to current Government guidance, meetings and events can go ahead once again. Any such meetings/events should follow the prevailing Government guidance at that particular time. The Council will, in undertaking any meetings/events, consider what measures can be implemented to ensure that attendees can stay safe. The Council would expect Neighbourhood Plan groups to follow this guidance in arranging meetings or events involving Council officers.</p> <p>As an alternative measure, Council officers are happy to host or attend virtual meetings with Neighbourhood Plan groups.</p>

For any queries on this temporary update, please email
localplan.snc@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk.

For further information about how the Council is responding to the Covid-19 pandemic,
please visit www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk.