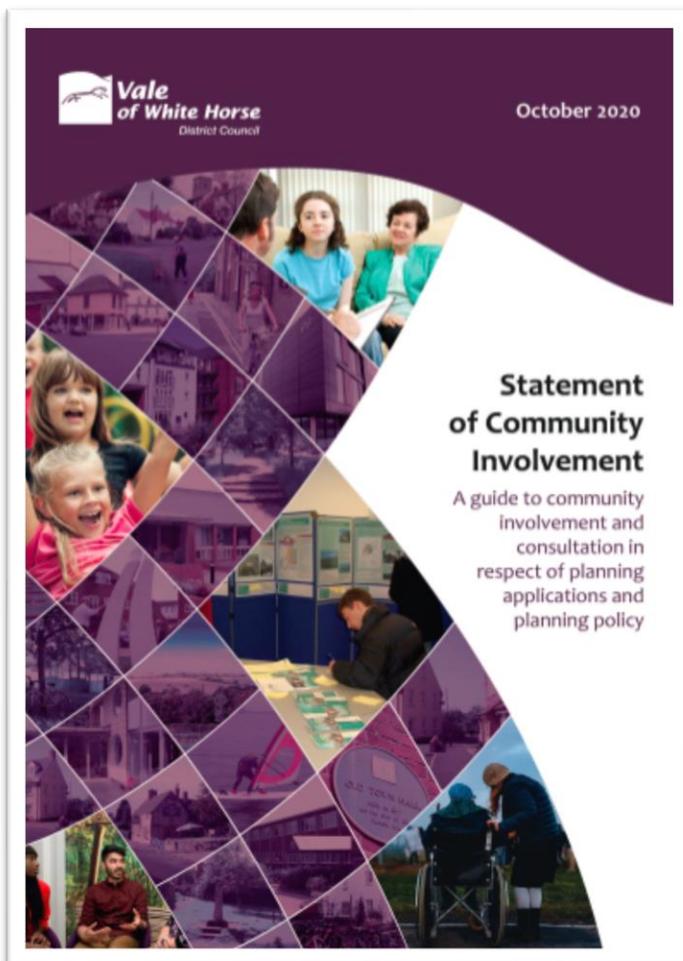


Draft Revised Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) 2020-2024

CONSULTATION REPORT

A review of the feedback of the consultation on the Draft Revised Statement of Community Involvement for Vale of White Horse District Council. The SCI forms part of the council's official Development Plan and sets out how communities will be able to influence new planning policy documents such as the Local Plan. It also sets out the ways in which interested parties can comment on planning applications for development.

DECEMBER 2020



A draft revised Statement of Community Involvement 2020 – 2024 was prepared for the consultation. Following feedback, the SCI has been updated (left) and is available on our website on the [SCI page](#).

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The appendices are available as two separate documents, alongside this report, on the consultation pages on [our website](#):

In Appendix 1:

APPENDIX A – CONSULTATION COMMUNICATION

APPENDIX B – SURVEY

APPENDIX C – DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

APPENDIX D – FULL LIST OF COMMENTS RECEIVED

In a separate document: APPENDIX 2

SUMMARY OF CONSULTATION RESPONSES

A summary of the consultation responses received, and the proposed changes taken forward within the SCI as a result of the consultation responses, is available as a separate document, in Appendix 2 (prepared for Cabinet).

NB: We may report in percentages even though there are less than 100 responses. When stating percentages in the analysis, we are referring to the percentage of respondents that answered the specific question, rather than the total number of responses to the overall survey. Response percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding up over .5 and rounding down under .5

SUMMARY

This report has been produced by council officers to provide a summary of the feedback received from Vale of White Horse District Council's draft revised Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) consultation. The SCI forms part of the council's official Development Plan and sets out how communities will be able to influence new planning policy documents such as the Local Plan. It also sets out the ways in which interested parties can comment on planning applications for development.

We consulted on the draft revised SCI document as the decisions we make, and policies we set, affect local residents, businesses and organisations and it's important they are involved from the start. We are required to produce an SCI as part of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

The consultation ran for six weeks between 27 February and 9 April 2020. In total 39 responses were received. 17 were sent by email and 22 through the online survey. Participants were asked a range of questions relating to the three main sections of the SCI, the general format and potential usefulness of the document.

Nearly half of responses, 17, were made on behalf of an organisation, while 15 responses were made by individuals and 4 responded as an agent. 3 people didn't answer the question.

The consultation highlighted that nearly a third of respondents (31%) agree that the draft revised SCI will enable communities to be informed and have timely and meaningful opportunities to have a say on any proposals we make. Close to half (44%) disagree with the statement, while a quarter of respondents neither agree nor disagree with the statement. The consultation received a variety of comments, 202 in total, about each of the sections of the report and the general format of the document. All comments have been reviewed and a response from the planning policy team is available in the Table of officer responses to comment summaries, in the appendices.

Key findings:

Section 1: Shaping our Future – the council's overall approach to community engagement and involvement in the planning process

There were 35 comments relating to this question, which asked for comments to Section 1 of the SCI. The issue raised most frequently in relation to this section was that residents want to be heard and have their views respected but they feel that their responses and advice is ignored. Respondents also commented that planning consultation in planning matters is a pointless process, there is a lack of attention to detail in the document and ask for the SCI to more clearly state how the council will involve the community, listen and act.

Section 2: Community Involvement in the preparation of the Local Plan and Planning Policy – how to get involved with and influence the council as we prepare the Local Plan and other planning policy documents

There were 46 comments relating to this question, which asked for comments on Section 2 of the SCI. The issue raised most frequently in relation to this section was the feeling that responses to a consultation and advice given to the council is ignored. Comments also

highlighted that the desire for the council to go out into the community more to find out what their needs and concerns are. Responders also mentioned that Sustainability Appraisals should reference the Climate Emergency declared by Vale especially with reference to UK legislation post Brexit.

Section 3: Community Involvement in Planning Applications – how to become involved with planning applications

There were 42 comments relating to this question, which asked for comments to Section 3 of the SCI. The issue raised most frequently in relation to this section was that the community should be consulted on draft S106 agreements as it's the community who will see some benefit from a development. There were also comments requesting more information and clarity about the planning process, about how decisions are made and about the consistency and timing of communicating information. One responder said the planning application process is clear and logical.

Comments on the general format of the SCI – is it clear and suitable for your needs

There were 11 comments relating to this question, which asked for comments on the general format of the SCI. The range of issues raised in relation to this question were that the document is not easy to understand, is too long and would benefit from being professionally proof-read. One responder reported the document was clear to them as a person working in the planning world.

Other comments on the SCI

There were 68 comments given in the any other comments section. The issue raised most frequently (5) in relation to this question concerned the issue of the council complying with the result of consultations, not ignoring them, and therefore rendering them meaningless if representations are not taken seriously. There are views that the consultation process is pointless, as planning decisions taken by unelected bodies and outside the democratic process, and developers can subvert planning permission rules. Planning consultation representations are 'formal, superficial and unsubstantiated'. One responder said that broadly this is a good document that adequately expresses the aims of the SCI.

Question 10: To what extent will the SCI enable communities to be informed and have timely and meaningful opportunities to have a say on any proposals we make?

16 respondents answered the question. 5 agree with the statement, and 4 respondents neither agree nor disagree. In total 7 respondents disagree on what the document sets out to achieve – “to enable communities to be informed and have timely and meaningful opportunities to have a say on any proposals we make”.

Other key findings included:

- respondents felt that more detail about how to respond to consultations could be included in the SCI, including different ways to get involved and a clearer objective of consultation, especially for those who are not used to the planning system
- respondents mentioned that different groups, organisations and individuals, especially those who are vulnerable and seldom heard, are keen to get more involved and have their views listed to and acted on;
- respondents commented that there is too much focus on the mechanics of consultation and what is needed is greater clarity on how the council engages, responds to and modifies plans based on the output of consultations.

Next steps

In response to the feedback from the consultation, all comments were considered by the planning policy team and the draft Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) was then refined, taking into account the comments made at consultation.

The updated Statement of Community Involvement, along with a report summarising the consultation responses was presented to Cabinet for consideration in the summer (see the Summary of officer responses, in Appendix 2).

The Statement of Community Involvement 2020 was adopted by Cabinet on Friday 25 September 2020. A copy of the adopted SCI and the adoption statement can be viewed on the [Statement of Community Involvement page of the website](#).

The SCI will also be available to view at the council's offices (once they have reopened to the public) at 135 Eastern Avenue, Milton Park, Milton, OX14 4SB (opening times Monday to Thursday 8.30am to 5pm and Friday 8.30am to 4.30pm). If you have any questions regarding the SCI, please contact our Planning Policy Team on planning.policy@southandvale.gov.uk or on 01235 422600.

BACKGROUND TO THE CONSULTATION

Vale of White Horse District Council has updated the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI). The SCI sets out how we aim to work positively and proactively with local communities and we are seeking views on the SCI on how it gathers public feedback on its planning consultations.

We are committed to working in a clear and transparent way and are keen to assist anyone who may wish to get involved in the planning process. We aim for communities to be informed and have timely and meaningful opportunities to have a say on any proposals we make.

We previously adopted an SCI in 2016 and this updated document will replace that version. Once adopted we must comply with the new SCI in preparing any plan-making document or when determining a planning application.

We are required under legislation to produce an SCI. The SCI takes into account changes to the planning system, through the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG), and any changes to legislation.

We invited comments on the draft revised Statement of Community Involvement from Thursday 27 February until 5pm on Thursday 9 April 2020.

CONSULTATION METHODOLOGY

The consultation methodology consisted of the following:

- an email notification to 25 planning policy statutory bodies, comprising neighbouring local authorities, national agencies and organisations;
- an email notification to Vale of White Horse town and parish councils and parish meetings, and all district councillors;
- an email notification to the councils' planning policy consultee database, to provide a link to the draft revised SCI and some background information along with details of how to comment;
- the notifications were issued through the online consultation system Smart Survey. A total of 2,216 email notifications were sent out. A copy of the email notification can be found in the appendices;
- a letter to those consultees who opted in for postal correspondence. This included a letter notification, the survey, and details of how to access the draft revised SCI and background information (see the email notification as an example of the text used in the appendices). A total of 18 letters were issued;
- notifying Vale of White Horse district councillors through our internal councillor e-newsletter;
- updating the website and publishing the draft SCI document and a link to the online survey;
- 7 parish council / parish meeting email notifications initially bounced back and were resent with extra time allowed to respond to the consultation;
- a focused online survey, offering participants opportunity to provide comments on the SCI, indicate their level of agreement to its potential effectiveness and comment on each section in a free text box. A copy of the survey can be found in the appendices;
- a press release was issued on the consultation launch date, and social media messages (Twitter and Facebook) posted during the consultation period to further publicise and encourage wide participation from the public;
- a six-week consultation period for submitting responses;
- the consultation was carried out in conformity with our public engagement charter¹.

Reporting methodology

- A total of 39 responses were received. 36 completed responses and 3 partial responses were included as at least one of the main survey questions was answered. 48 people looked at the survey but didn't answer;
- 17 of the 39 responses were received by email; one member of the public and 16 organisations or agencies. These were added manually to Smart Survey. to the 'other comments' section as a single response;
- Responses manually added to the 'other comments' section as a single response were moved to other sections of the report for analysis if they related to that section;
- 96 comments overall were received. Most of the comments contained several comments or points within them and, where this is the case, each comment or point has been summarised individually for analysis purposes. Therefore, the total number of

¹ <https://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/vale-of-white-horse-district-council/about-the-council/get-in-touch/consultations/>

comments received, once broken down for analysis, is 202 A summary of the 202 comments is included in this report;

- Responses manually added to the 'other comments' section as a single response in the online survey system were moved to the appropriate sections of the report for analysis;
- some spelling, grammatical and punctuation errors in the original comments raised were corrected in the main body of this report; a full list of unedited comments can be found in the appendices.

KEY FINDINGS – QUANTITATIVE DATA

The key quantitative findings from the consultation are summarised below.

There was one compulsory question in the online survey, all other questions were optional. The one required question was to find out who they were completing the form as, so that if they were an organisation or agent, they were asked to provide their name and contact details. Individuals were not asked to provide personal details.

The survey provided an opportunity to make comments or suggestions on each of the three main sections of the document, comment on the general format of the SCI eg whether it is clear and suitable for their needs, and to make any other comments on the draft SCI.

There were 39 responses to the consultation. Nearly half of respondents represented an organisation (47%) and 11% represented an agent. The remaining 42% of responses were from individuals. Three people skipped this question.

Respondents included neighbouring local authorities, parish councils, national agencies and bodies, local organisations and members of the public.

DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

We asked for some demographic information to help understand whether those who took part in the survey are representative of the local population, and of those, who could be affected by or involved with the Statement of Community Involvement.

We do not have data for the 17 respondents who emailed their response to us, as they did not complete the survey and therefore could not provide this data.

The demographic data collected showed that a higher proportion of respondents identified as male (61%) than female (28%), while some respondents preferred not to say (11%).

The age range of the people who answered this question shows that 39% were age 55-64 and 28% were age 45-54.

16% of respondents who answered the question specified that their day to day activities were limited because of a health problem or disability. This is very slightly lower than the figure of 18.6% for England provided by the Office for National Statistics².

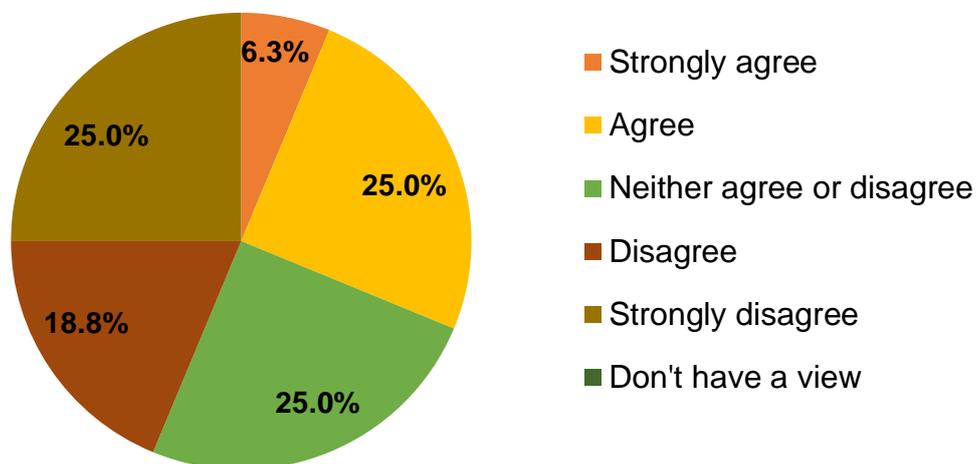
Full demographic data can be found in the appendices.

HOW FAR DO YOU AGREE OR DISAGREE THAT THE SCI WILL ENABLE COMMUNITIES TO BE INFORMED AND HAVE TIMELY AND MEANINGFUL OPPORTUNITIES TO HAVE A SAY ON ANY PROPOSALS WE MAKE

Respondents were asked how much they agree or disagree with the statement 'the SCI will enable communities to be informed and have timely and meaningful opportunities to have a say on any proposals we make' and were given choices ranging from strongly agree to strongly disagree, and also don't have a view. The question was answered by 16 respondents, 41% of the total number of respondents to the survey.

The survey results show that nearly one third of respondents (31%) agree overall with the statement, and of these, 6% 'strongly agree' with the statement. A quarter (25%) said they neither agree nor disagree. 44% of respondents said they disagree overall with the statement, and of these, 25% 'strongly disagree' that the SCI will enable communities to be informed and have timely and meaningful opportunities to have a say on any proposals we make.

To what extent do you agree that the SCI will enable communities to be informed and have timely and meaningful opportunities to have a say on any proposals we make?



²

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/disability/articles/disabilityinenglandandwales/2013-01-30>

Although this question did not give respondents an opportunity to provide comments, it followed five questions that did allow an opportunity for comments and the uploading of evidence and supporting documents to support or justify comments.

There were a high number of comments made in the survey, 202 in all, and a summary of these is summarised in the Key findings – qualitative data section of this report, with officer responses included in the appendices.

KEY FINDINGS – QUALITATIVE DATA

The consultation allowed participants to provide free text responses to the three main sections of the SCI, how they felt about the general format of the document and whether they had any 'other comments' on the SCI. This opportunity allowed respondents to openly indicate reasons behind their views on different elements of the document and their overall views.

A range of comments and suggestions were received. A summary of all the comments, along with how frequently they were mentioned, can be found in the tables below. Comments raised more than twice are highlighted in the tables.

All comments raised have been individually responded to by the planning policy team and the responses can be found in the Table of officer responses to comment summaries comment summaries in the appendices.

Some spelling, grammatical and punctuation errors in the original comments raised were corrected in this report; a full list of unedited comments can be found in the appendices.

Section 1: Shaping our Future – the council’s overall approach to community engagement and involvement in the planning process

A summary of the key themes emerging from the comments received on Section 1 can be found below.

Table: frequency of comments raised on Section 1: Shaping our Future

Comment type	Frequency
Feel response to consultation and advice is ignored, residents want to be heard and have their views respected	3
Pointless process as planning decisions taken by unelected bodies/outside democratic process	2
Document should more clearly state how you will involve the community, listen and act (rather than woolly/wordy document)	2
Document shows lack of attention to detail, suggest it is proof-read; responder comments on eg grammar, punctuation, consistency, comprehension	2
Council does not have a good record on consultation issues - needs to try harder	1

Think council is chasing government funding for work to support personal agenda and ambition	1
Whole process is quite inaccessible for people without intimate knowledge of planning	1
The document at 41 pages is too long especially for people without experience of local government or planning	1
Despite principle of using Plain English, this fails in a number of areas in the document	1
In the providing feedback section pg 5: do results of consultations have a fixed validity period?	1
In para 3.3: is there a fixed range charge for requesting printed copies of documents?	1
The mechanisms for 'documenting views and clear feedback...on views of community' should be described in document	1
In 'recognising different groups': suggest a forum for bodies who use service to work with regular users	1
Unable to read all of content from link in survey, but was ok with second link	1
Expand and improve the greenbelt	1
Vulnerable groups, including elderly and young think they have no influence on what happens so why bother	1
Vale website very difficult to use for West Way development, would have been impossible for some	1
Clarify role and engagement of individuals as stakeholders vs organised bodies	1
Document doesn't show recognition of present weaknesses in engagement methods, and how they can be improved	1
If communication channels are weak it's all pointless	1
It seems clear	1
Questions can be steered to get answers you want and public approval	1
P5: what does "early involvement with local communities in the preparation of our... documents and ...applications mean?	1
P5: how will you 'endeavour to engage a wide range of ...groups...in the community?	1
3.3: can you provide a list of 'deposit locations'?	1
2.2: Principles of engagement must be defined in context of sustainability/ climate emergency	1
3.3: parish clerks to provide copies to parishioners on request (save printing copies unnecessarily)	1
3.5: clarify role of database, what consultations you receive, difference to planning application email alerts (needs unsubscribe)	1
6.2: How will SCI be reviewed, will there be targets for review?	1
Para 1.2 needs to set out a clearer objective of consultation	1

Section 2: Community Involvement in the preparation of the Local Plan and Planning Policy – how to get involved with and influence the council as we prepare the Local Plan and other planning policy documents

A summary of the key themes emerging from the comments received on Section 2 can be found below.

Table 2: frequency of comments raised on Section 2: Community Involvement in the preparation of the Local Plan and Planning Policy

Comment type	Frequency
Feel my response to consultation and advice is ignored	3
S2 Fig 1: add Box 6 'respond to representations' clearly/publicly, add detail (also detail to Box 3)	2
11.9: Sustainability Appraisal needs reference to Climate Emergency declared by Vale, reference UK legislation post Brexit	2
11.8: the link to the SPD web page does not work	2
It all seems 'we are here and documents are here - come to us', go out into communities and find out needs and concerns	2
Council does not have a good record on consultation issues - needs to try harder	1
Pointless process as planning decisions taken by unelected bodies/outside democratic process	1
Think council is chasing government funding for work to support personal agenda and ambition	1
More details on how you involve the community (rather than neighbourhood plan consultations which are difficult to understand)	1
Do short online video to explain how you involve community using easy to understand language	1
Would like planners to do mandatory online residents' poll for large schemes	1
Putting up laminated notices of planning applications is outdated and pointless	1
Suggest using community Facebook and websites more effectively	1
Para 13.6: who would we need approval from to 'seek to extend' consultation?	1
Para 13.6: why not say we 'will' extend consultations rather than 'may seek to'?	1
Well designed focus groups would help in gaining the views of local groups	1
Unable to read all of the content from link in survey	1
Be ambitious for the greenbelt	1
Para 7.1: where and when development takes place...strategic sites and policies especially in a village or hamlet	1
Para 8.1: once land is identified there is no end of house building leaving many isolated with no voice	1
Para 9.1: Older people want to write to planners to express their concerns about development issues but feel it will do no good	1

Para 10.2: you say you want to 'understand who to talk to in community' and mention groups, but what about individuals?	1
Local Plans/guidance for development ignored (West Way development), getting involved waste of time	1
Our experience of creating a neighbourhood plan and its relationship to the Local Plan was good	1
11.13 – 11.23: Vale should contribute constructively to delivery of PCs planning objectives, not just focus on process	1
11.28 – 11.31: urgent need for three way discussion between district, county and parish about CIL expenditure priorities	1
11.13 – 11.23: Radley PC would have achieved more in less time doing their neighbourhood plan if officers gave more open-minded and constructive support	1
Page 12 diagram: suggest amendments to text that will encourage appropriate response, action and modification following consultation	1
10.5: suggest an appendix listing consultation bodies and which documents they are consulted on	1
7.1: diagram misleading, no mention of DPDs, SPDs, Local Plan 2041, how does OCC mineral plan it in	1
11: suggest chart for Local Plan to define consultation process otherwise appears complete	1
11.31 Figure 5: add step to appraise significant changes to CIL schedule following consultation	1
13.6: Consultation over holiday periods - change 'may' to 'will' seek to extend	1
Suggest new para 9.6 to offer range of options and choices to consultees on Local Plan that reflect national policy	1
11.9: suggest specifically mentioning the climate crisis and the key zero carbon reduction targets	1
10.4 site testing: no concern for safety on adjacent trunk roads which have the bus routes (for those living in middle of field being developed)	1
11.24 Community Right to Build: no mention of purpose built homes (wide pavement etc) for older people wanting to stay local	1
11.29: Why can't CIL money from A420 developments be used for village bus stop crossings (underpass in unusable)	1
Oxford Brookes University suggest amends to 9.5 to include 'education providers' in list of target groups to work with	1
Oxford Brookes University suggest amends to 10.2 to include 'higher education providers' in definition of who is included in the local community	1

Section 3: Community Involvement in Planning Applications – how to become involved with planning applications

A summary of the key themes emerging from the comments received on Section 3 can be found below.

Table 3: frequency of comments raised on Section 3: Community Involvement in Planning Applications

Comment type	Frequency
26.3: community should be consulted / engaged with on draft S106 agreements, review/check prior to final agreement	2
Council does not have a good record on consultation issues - needs to try harder	1
Feel my response to consultation and advice is ignored	1
Pointless process as planning decisions taken by unelected bodies/outside democratic process	1
Step 2 should mention posting notices near proposed site (on poles, gates etc)	1
Where a planning application is amended, do you post a revised notice?	1
Step 5 bullet 2: why isn't it mandatory to notify respondents of amended submissions (may materially affect comments)?	1
Section 27: Think that the opportunity to appeal should also be available to opponents, despite what regulations say	1
Why bother with the planning process if applicant can ignore constraints / authority chose not to enforce	1
Planning officers are seen to ignore rules and regulations, allowing shambolic building work	1
Application with more than 2 objections should go to committee (to stop non-compliant builds/disputes)	1
Local Plan should balance housing growth with support services/more joined up approach (infrastructure not just housing)	1
Unable to read all of content from link in survey	1
More green spaces, easily accessible	1
If council does not listen to the community's objections, involvement is not a productive use of time	1
A separate category for applications for more than 49 homes/4,999 sq mtr would be helpful to our group as substantial infrastructure improvements likely	1
What does gross floor area include: interior of buildings only?	1
The planning application process is clear and logical	1
We welcome the inclusion of pre-app advice to the web document set	1
Step 5: to ensure transparency, additional information from applicant should be made public (and parish council giving chance to comment)	1
Think council is chasing government funding for work to support personal agenda and ambition	1
How do officers decide whether comments on an application are valid for consideration?	1

How do officers feed comments and information back to applicants?	1
How are questions from people commenting on applications considered and answered?	1
Applicants mostly ignore comments and do not answer questions	1
How do officers ensure documentation in application is accurate and complete, and if not, who decides how it's put right?	1
Applications based on errors/omissions are approved without condition, process appears rigged/sloppy	1
20.1 – 20.3. Development Forums should be mandatory	1
22: parish councils should be consulted on 'discharge of conditions' applications	1
25.4 – 25.6: concerned that planning committee role being eroded - suggest published protocol on referrals	1
25.4 – 25.6: concerns over how pre-commencement conditions are handled	1
26.1 – 26.4: three-way meetings with district, county and parish should be part of pre-applications for strategic sites	1
19.2: Notes of discussions held (phone/face-to-face) should be disclosed when application submitted	1
22: why are reserved matter applications for major developments visible to non-listed consultees eg AONB?	1
20: experience of Development Forums was it was waste of time, not constructive process	1
25 Decisions: suggest information on how decisions are communicated (website shows no decision issued for decision taken 4 years ago)	1
22: reinstate commitment for wider notification of major applications	1
22: the SCI should include details of how to register for planning notifications (email alerts)	1
25.5: Speaking time should be 5 minutes for major applications (in line with SODC)	1
28: statements in this section should be backed up with actions (as last resort)	1
28.5: include information on how person reporting suspected breach will be kept informed of status/remedial actions	1

Comments on the general format of the SCI – is it clear and suitable for your needs?

A summary of the key themes emerging from the comments received on the general format of the SCI can be found below.

Table 4: frequency of comments raised on ‘any comments on the general format of our SCI – is it clear and suitable for your needs’

Comment type	Frequency
I think that it is a well-constructed and drafted document	1
Pointless process as planning decisions taken by unelected bodies/outside democratic process	1
Think council is chasing government funding for work to support personal agenda and ambition	1
Document is not easy to understand - nor is it presented or made that way - almost deliberate obfuscation	1
It is readable but who's really going to wade through it all?	1
When will it next be updated?	1
Too long	1
Why do we have a local plan that doesn't address the need for social housing?	1
Would benefit from being proof-read by qualified professional, plethora of grammatical errors detracts from content	1
Consultations and planning regulations pointless if officers fail to carry out enforcement role	1
It is clear to me as a person working in the planning world	1

Other comments on the SCI

A summary of the key themes emerging from the comments received on the ‘any other comments’ question can be found below.

Responses manually added to the ‘other comments’ section as a single response in the online survey system were moved to the appropriate sections of the report for analysis.

Table 5: frequency of comments raised on ‘other comments on the SCI’

Comment type	Frequency
Address the issue of complying with the result of consultations not ignoring them/not meaningful if representations not taken seriously	5
Pointless process as planning decisions taken by unelected bodies/outside democratic process	2
Document doesn't address how developers can subvert planning permission, eg add 2 storeys/150 houses	2

Consultation responses are formal, superficial and unsubstantiated/often summarised	2
Combining previous documents into one /comprehensive document makes it much clearer	2
Material considerations should include climate change and biodiversity and be given substantial weight	1
Decision making being undermined/one party being disadvantaged if verbal comments at committee not already in writing	1
Think council is chasing government funding for work to support personal agenda and ambition	1
Broadly, I think that this is a good document that adequately expresses the aims of the SCI	1
It is very wordy / lengthy and does not strike one as inventive	1
Nobody seems to have checked document before it was issued	1
I haven't read it, took a look, couldn't face it	1
If everything is followed and people feel they matter/ are listened to, then this SCI may be fine, but I have strong reservations	1
Thank you for the opportunity to share some observations	1
The document does not address conflict of interest eg when Vale has financial interest	1
Include that proportion of homes must be 'affordable' with indication of intended proportion	1
Include that proportion of homes must be accessible to disabled people, with indication of intended proportion	1
Include that highway improvements must improve accessibility	1
Include that community buildings must be accessible	1
Highways England has reviewed the consultation and have no comments	1
Historic England support the general aims and approach to the draft SCI	1
We welcome the acknowledgement of Historic England as a specific consultation body	1
Historic England welcomes early informal consultation/involvement, in addition to legislative requirements, where issues may benefit	1
All looks good - proof of utility will be in the execution	1
Oxford Brookes University objects to current draft SCI on basis it should specifically recognise 'higher education' providers	1
Oxford Brookes University suggest modest amendments which, if accepted, would mean they support SCI	1
Radley PC are generally happy with arrangements for engaging on planning matters, but have concerns on procedures in SCI	1
Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks already liaise with council, making comments as needed on planning documents	1
SEPD is concerned insufficient discussion takes place with LPAs concerning future of overhead lines in housing/ industrial developments	1
Planning authorities should impose condition on developers prohibiting development until developer reaches agreement about use/modification of overhead lines	1
SEPD would be pleased to receive comments and discuss further how to improve consultation on modifying overhead lines	1

Parish councils should have opportunity to see anything which affects its parish including the draft s106 agreements	1
Parish councils should be notified when applications to discharge conditions are submitted, to view and check details	1
Office for Nuclear Regulation requests to be consulted in line with our Land Use Planning processes on the Harwell nuclear licenced site	1
Wycombe DC has no comments on the draft SCI (Buckinghamshire Council supersedes WDC but made no further comment)	1
Oxford City Council support the draft SCI	1
The figures in Section 11 are very clear	1
As many strategic decision that drive Vale planning policy are taken at OXLEP/Growth Board, how does Vale ensure community involved?	1
Why isn't process of strategic decision making that drives Vale planning policy, taken at OXLEP/Growth Board, included in this SCI?	1
Suggest application amendments should be referred to all who share boundary, town/parish council, relevant specialists and anybody affected	1
Document should mention what grounds a district councillor has for refusing to call in an application, when requested by individual or town/parish council	1
Document should mention what grounds a planning committee chairman has for refusing a request to call in an application	1
Development forums useful as communication channel, should be a formal part of process for large developments	1
Highways England will be concerned with proposals with potential to impact safe/efficient operation of strategic road networks, eg A34 and M4	1
Section 14: our experience is of system that gave no weight to concerns of local community / consultation process was a hollow charade	1
Consultation process for preparation of Development Plans is flawed, is a formality without substance	1
Local communities best understand situation on the ground are their representations must be respected/process must be two-way	1
Cherwell DC supports commitment of duty to cooperate, addressing strategic planning matters, statements of common ground for Local Plan	1
Section 3: Cherwell DC suggest that neighbouring town and parish councils outside Vale are consulted on/notified of applications adjacent to border	1
Consultation team has comments and suggestions for document, being sent separately	1
Nuclear Decommissioning Authority agree with principles within draft SCI	1
Request to add NDA as local stakeholder representing interests of a business in Vale for upcoming Local Plan consultations	1
Introduction: no acknowledgement of climate emergency, text to reflect now and future	1
Online consultation means comments are fragmented as comments requested by section	1
Appendix A: suggest applications affecting character and appearance of conservation area also notified to land owners/occupiers	1

SCI should make clear that community involvement should extend to the earliest part of the relevant process	1
Key planning documents, like Oxfordshire 2050 Plan should be subject to transparent public debate (not done behind closed doors as in past)	1
Too much focus on mechanics of consultation, need greater clarity on how outcomes are addressed (how to engage, respond, modify plans)	1
When levels of growth being considered, should be commitment to give community option based on natural growth needs	1
Suggest including text to encourage applicants to seek pre-application advice from Thames Water, include link	1

HOW WE HAVE USED RESULTS OF THE CONSULTATION

Thank you to everyone that has participated in the consultation.

This report and the appendices show the outcome of the consultation on the draft revised Statement of Community Involvement, which sets out how communities will be able to influence new planning policy documents such as the Local Plan. It also sets out the ways in which interested parties can comment on planning applications for development.

In response to the feedback from the consultation, all comments were considered by the planning policy team and the draft Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) was then refined, taking into account the comments made at consultation.

The updated Statement of Community Involvement, along with a report summarising the consultation responses was presented to Cabinet for consideration in the summer (see Summary of consultation responses, in Appendix 2).

The Statement of Community Involvement 2020 was adopted by Cabinet on Friday 25 September 2020. A copy of the adopted SCI and the adoption statement can be viewed on the [SCI page of the website](#).

The SCI will also be available to view at the council's offices (once they have reopened to the public) at 135 Eastern Avenue, Milton Park, Milton, OX14 4SB (opening times Monday to Thursday 8.30am to 5pm and Friday 8.30am to 4.30pm). If you have any questions regarding the SCI, please contact our Planning Policy Team on planning.policy@southandvale.gov.uk or on 01235 422600.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For information about the consultation or the results presented in this report, please contact:

Consultation and Community Engagement Team
Vale of White Horse District Council
01235 422125
haveyoursay@southandvale.gov.uk

To enquire about the council's work on Planning Policy and for any questions regarding the Statement of Community Involvement, please contact:

Lucy Murfett
Planning Policy Manager
Vale of White Horse District Council
Customer Service: 01235 422600
Email: lucy.murfett@southandvale.gov.uk

APPENDICES

The appendices are available as two separate documents, alongside this report, on the consultation pages on [our website](#):

In Appendix 1:

APPENDIX A – CONSULTATION COMMUNICATION

APPENDIX B – SURVEY

APPENDIX C – DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

APPENDIX D – FULL LIST OF COMMENTS RECEIVED

In a separate document: APPENDIX 2

SUMMARY OF CONSULTATION RESPONSES

A summary of the consultation responses received, and the proposed changes taken forward within the SCI as a result of the consultation responses, is available as a separate document, in Appendix 2 (prepared for Cabinet).