

Consultation Statement for Barnet's Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document

Consultation on the draft Statement of Community Involvement took place over six weeks from 2nd June to 14th July. This was consistent with the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 as amended (the regulations) and the Council's Statement of Community Involvement. It was advertised on the Engage Barnet webpage on the Council's website, providing a summary of the SCI, a link of the draft document, together with a Questions and Answers document to provide further information on the SCI to assist stakeholders and Barnet residents.

Participants were invited to complete a user friendly questionnaire, which predominantly comprised of open ended questions on each section of the draft document, published on the Council's website, and/or submit representations via email to the Planning Policy Team general email address forward.planning@barnet.gov.uk. The option to submit representation by post to the Council Office was also made available. In addition, the public were advised they could request a copy of the document by contacting the Planning Policy Team directly should they have difficulties accessing the document on the website.

Notification emails were sent to statutory consultees and those on the Local Plan consultation database and those subscribed to Barnet's First eNewsletter for service updates. In addition, a Public Notice was published on Barnet Times which invited representations on the draft SCI. Consultation details on the draft SCI were also published on Barnet Council's social media platforms including Facebook and Twitter/ X.

A total of 14 responses were received, 4 of these were from statutory consultees, including Historic England, Natural England, The Environment Agency and Metropolitan Police; 4 comments were received from individual Barnet residents. Representations were also submitted to the Council from The Barnet Society; The Silkstream Flood Group; The Colindale Flood Group; Age UK Barnet, A voluntary/community organisation for older people; Inkluder- a Voluntary Organisation for LGBTQ+ Community; Grange Big Local (volunteer community group in East Finchley); and 4 individual Barnet residents.

To avoid unnecessary duplication and repetition of text, the table below will state, where applicable, the Section number of the draft SCI only, rather than stating the Section number and title. For example, the summary table below will refer to "Section 2", rather than "Section 2 – Our Principles for Involving the Community".

For ease of reference whilst reviewing the document, and for the avoidance of doubt and completeness, the section numbers and their representative heading titles are set out below:

- Section 1 What is the Statement of Community Involvement?
- Section 2 Our Principles for Involving the Community?
- Section 3 How we will involve the community in preparing our planning policies?
- Section 4 Involvement in Planning Applications?
- Section 5 Resources and review?
- Section 6 Where you can get more help?
- Section 7 Appendices?

Copies of all representations received in full are publicly accessible to view on the Council's website. Cabinet Members are advised that copies of all representations received can be made available to them for review prior to or at the Cabinet meeting on 16th September.

The purpose of this Consultation Statement is to provide a summary of the key comments, observations, and concerns raised on the draft SCI. The Councils responses and actions arising (which identifies where updates will be made or not required to the final SCI as set out in table 1 below. Text formatted as ~~strikethrough~~ identifies text which will be removed, whilst text underlined signifies additional to be added to the final SCI in response to matters raised within the representations received.

Issue Raised	Councils Response and Actions Arising
Historic England	
<p>Historic England (HE) support the general aims and approach to the draft SCI, and welcomes being included as a consultee on relevant neighbourhood plans, planning applications, and policy documents. HE encourages early informal engagement to ensure the historic environment is fully considered at all stages of local planning process and have provided a link to view their guidance note on these matters - elondon@historicengland.org.uk.</p>	<p>Historic England's supporting comments are welcomed.</p> <p>HE will continue to be consulted upon all applications relating to statutory listed building in the Borough, and applications which have immediate impacts on other significant designated heritage assists in the Borough. With reference to pre applications, the LPA may seek EH in unique circumstances when deemed necessary at the discretion and judgment of the Development Management team. The LPA may also advice the applicant to contact EH separately to liaise together establish their position at pre application stage. However, this matter does not fall within the remit of the SCI.</p> <p>No further updates to the SCI required.</p>
Natural England	
<p>Natural England (NE) supports early and meaningful engagement of communities, organizations, and statutory bodies in planning, both in shaping policy and in decision-making on applications. NE requests that all planning consultations be sent electronically to their central hub at consultations@naturalengland.org.uk to ensure efficient service delivery.</p>	<p>Natural England's supporting comments are welcomed. As per Natural England's request, Barnet Planning Service can reassure NE that consultations will be electronically (on relevant planning applications and draft planning policy documents when deemed appropriate to: consultations@naturalengland.org.uk. This commitment is not required to be stated within the SCI.</p> <p>No further updates to the SCI required</p>
Environment Agency	
<p>The Environment Agency (EA) has not provided comments specifically on the content of the draft SCI itself, but as a general point are pleased to be listed as a statutory consultee, as well as a duty to cooperate body.</p> <p>EA has provided their website link to view their detailed guidance notes, and check list for LPA (dated 2017); together with consultation links for pre application, planning applications, and permission in principle consultations on their website.</p>	<p>The Councils welcomes the supporting comments received on the draft SCI, and the website links provided to assist both the LPA and applicants/developers is appreciated,</p> <p>The LPA Development Management team are informed and refer to EA's guidance notes and checklists on their website particularly for large scale strategic proposal at pre application and full planning application stages as deemed appropriate on policy matters including flood risk, contamination, water quality, waste management, and biodiversity. PI</p> <p>The Planning Service welcomes EA's bespoke service for applicants/developments and LBB Planning Officers can advise applicants of this service in instances where it would</p>

<p>EA provide a bespoke service for applicant/developers to utilise should they required a meeting or written comments for EA to reviews planning technical documents within their statutory remit and outside their statutory remit (such as reviewing Flood Risk Assessments) at pre-application stages or to resolve objections post submission of a planning application. EA note that the general guidance notes of their website: does not replace the need to use the EA's Flood Risk Standing Advice (FRSA) or any locally agreed standing advice.</p> <p>Further details on the above for both LPA's and Developer can be viewed on their website-</p> <p>HNL.SustainablePlaces@environment-agency.gov.uk</p>	<p>be considered benefit at pre application stage, and direct applicants to the links with EA provided for further details.</p> <p>However, the above matters and details are outside the scope remit of the SCI.</p> <p>No further updates to the SCI required.</p>
Metropolitan Police	
<p>Section 2- Metropolitan Police (MP) supports the SCI commitment to the importance and benefits of community engagement, and welcomes being listed as a statutory consultee, recognizing the importance of Design Out Crime Officer (DOCO's) role in enhancing safety in development projects within the borough. Consulting with DOCO during the design phase (particularly pre application consultation for major and controversial pre application applications) enables their input on local crime trends and design solutions to minimise the potential for anti-social behaviour through the Secured by Design process before formal planning submission.</p>	<p>The Councils welcomes the supporting comments received on the draft SCI.</p> <p>Scheduled informal meetings occur monthly with the DOCO and a Manager within the pre applications team. This gives planning and design officers an opportunity is discuss applicable pre applications proposals with the DOCO and seek their input to minimise the safety, security risks and other crime related issues at the early stage of the design process. When considered appropriate, the pre application team and LBB design officer may also advice the applicant to contact DOCO directly at this early stage, when considered appropriate for major and large-scale development, or smaller development proposals which present obvious security and safety.</p> <p>However, the above matters and details are outside the scope remit of the SCI.</p> <p>No further updates to the SCI required</p>
<p>Paragraph 4.17 - DOCO note that smaller developments can also benefit from early crime prevention advice, and encourage the LPA to include this point in the final SCI.</p>	<p>Please refer to comments above regarding consultation on smaller developments at pre application stage. DOCO are consulted on smaller "minor" full planning application when deemed appropriate.</p> <p>No further updates to the SCI required</p>
<p>The potential for anti-social behaviour, crime, or disorder should be added to the list of material planning considerations in paragraph 4.34.</p>	<p>The final SCI will be amended to include "<u>Safety and Security- the potential for anti-social behaviour, crime or disorder resulting from use</u>" as an additional material planning consideration listed in paragraph 4.34</p>
The Barnet Society	

<p>Whilst the draft SCI outlines strong aspirations for community engagement there appears to be a gap in delivery. For example, in February 2024, The Barnet Society (TBS) submitted detailed comments on their view to shape the next Parks & Open Spaces Strategy but have not received any updates or follow-up communication from Barnet's Green Space team since.</p>	<p>Matters relating to the status of the emerging Parks and Open Spaces Strategy fall outside the remit of the LPA of the SCI.</p> <p>Notwithstanding, Officers note the comments and have been advised, the Councils Green Space Team are in the process of finalising their upcoming Parks and Open Spaces Strategy (POSS). Public consultation on the draft POSS is anticipated to commence by the end of 2025, at which time TBS will be consulted upon. The existing POSS is dated 2016-2026, therefore this continues to be a relevant adopted POSS until it is replaced next year (in 2026).</p> <p>No further update to the SCI required.</p>
<p>The draft SCI emphasises the importance of Barnet's Local Plan. TBS are in general support of the adopted Local Plan but are uncertain as to how effectively the policies within the Local Plan are enforced. As an example, an imminent planning application is due to be submitted to the LPA by Places for London (PfL) with a proposal for circa 300 homes on High Barnet Station car park, that may proposed building heights contrary to adopted Local Plan policy.</p>	<p>The SCI is a framework policy document outlining how the LPA will involve the community in the planning process, not the specific details of a particular application. Notwithstanding, comments received by the LPA will continue to be considered and addressed during the decision-making process, and within Committee and Delegated reports. Upcoming planning applications will be assessed in accordance with the Councils newly adopted Local Plan and the adopted wider Development Plan for Barnet, which includes the London Plan and national policy framework.</p> <p>No further update to the SCI required</p>
<p>The SCI may need to be amended once the Government's Infrastructure Bill (GIF) is enacted. TBS asserts that the Government "<i>determination to streamline the planning application process</i>"-would be to the detriment of community involvement in planning and environmental matters.</p>	<p>The SCI sets out the Councils commitments on several ways the Planning Service will involve and consult the Community in new ways to reach a wider audience and improve the level of participation on planning matters. Indeed, many of the new proposed methods of notification and consultation on planning applications go above and beyond the statutory requirements for the LPA.</p> <p>There is no evidence at present to suggest that Government proposal to streamline the planning process would compromise community involvement in planning and environmental matters. Notwithstanding, the LPA will be required align with the future Government's Infrastructure Bill following its adoption. Importantly, it is a statutory requirement for all LPAs to update their SCI's every 5 years to reflect any changes to national planning policy and legislation.</p> <p>No further updates to the SCI required.</p>
<p>The draft SCI does not mention the Green Belt, 'Grey Belt', brownfield land, biodiversity, and Net Zero, which are key issues of local and national concern.</p>	<p>Providing details on these matters is not within the remit and function of the SCI.</p> <p>These matters are addressed in the Councils Local Plan and Supplementary Planning Documents as mentioned in paragraphs 3.3 and 3.6 of the draft SCI.</p> <p>No further updates to the SCI required.</p>

<p>Whilst the section on Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) is adequate, broader ecological concerns are overlooked, the draft SCI lacks clarity and sufficient information on responsibilities and processes for protecting trees and the natural environment.</p> <p>The division of responsibilities across various departments is unclear, with little evidence of coordination or communication with residents, despite repeated outreach.</p>	<p>Para 3.29 of the draft SCI is clear that the loss of trees and other environmental matters are material planning considerations.</p> <p>Conservation, Arboricultural, Environmental Public Health, Greenspaces, Tree & Street Scene teams work very closely and collaboratively with the Planning Service. These teams provide valuable and expert input throughout the drafting of planning policy documents and provide specialist comments on relevant planning applications. Their written comments on planning applications are clearly set out and addressed within the LPA's Committee and delegated Officers reports; and their input and comments are sought at early stages of drafting planning policy documents. The current division of responsibilities between Planning, Conservation, Arboricultural, Environmental & Public Health Officers and the Greenspaces, Tree & Street Scene teams are set out in the Councils website.</p> <p>This matter addressed above falls outside the scope of information that's needed within the SCI.</p> <p>No further updates to the SCI required.</p>
<p>The Council's progress toward Net Zero is slow, despite declaring a climate and biodiversity emergency three years ago. The Citizens Assembly delivered limited results, and key actions like improving air quality and home retrofitting have seen minimal progress. TBS does acknowledge there is "<i>some practical information</i>" on these environmental matters are available on the Councils website, but more needs to be done and further commitments reflected in the Statement of Community Involvement on these matters.</p>	<p>Commentary on Barnet's Citizen's Assembly on Climate Change and Biodiversity are outside the scope and remit of the SCI. This information is available on the Councils website- and can be viewed on link below.</p> <p>Citizens' Assembly on Climate Change and Biodiversity Barnet Council</p> <p>Climate Change and other environmental matters are detailed separate planning policy documents, namely the within the Councils newly adopted Local Plan, and other documents produced by specialist teams within Directorates across the Council and dealt with accordingly.</p> <p>No further updates to the SCI required.</p>
<p>The SCI should include information on the roles of Town Teams, who should be key consultees for their respective areas.</p>	<p>It is beyond the scope and remit of the SCI to detail the role of Town Teams. This information is available on the Councils website- and can be viewed on link below.</p> <p>Town Teams Barnet Council</p> <p>Section 7 provides details of the statutory consultees for planning policy documents; for planning applications; and for neighbourhood development plans. These are external bodies/organisations outside of Barnet Council. Although, the LPA liaise with Barnet's Town Teams when relevant.</p> <p>No further updates to the SCI required.</p>

<p>The draft SCI lacks detail on the role of the Council's Highways department, which plays a significant part in planning but remains one of the least publicly accountable. For example, community engagement over bus lanes in Chipping Barnet High Street proposals were inadequate and lacked public (no) consultation on the final proposal despite earlier public opposition.</p>	<p>This is not a matter to be detailed with this document as it falls outside the scope of the LPA and therefore the SCI.</p> <p>The SCI is a framework policy document outlining how LPA will involve the community in the planning process, we cannot comment on the specifics of a particular application</p> <p>The LPA works collaboratively with the Local Highways Authority during the assessment of planning applications and are consulted on and provide important input on planning policy documents. Para 4.3 of the draft SCI is clear that traffic generation; highway safety, and parking are material planning considerations when assessing planning applications. The role of the Council's Local Highways Authority (LHA) is detailed within the Council's website. Please visit the Council's website for further comprehensive information on the role of Barnet's Local Highways Authority.</p> <p>https://www.barnet.gov.uk/roads-and-pavements/highways-policies-and-guides</p> <p>No further updates to the SCI required.</p>
<p>The draft SCI omits mention of the Local Heritage List and Assets of Community Value, which offer important opportunities for public and community engagement and should be clearly included. These should be acknowledged in the final SCI.</p>	<p>The SCI is not required to provide information on the Council's Local Heritage List. Full details on Locally Listed Buildings (LLBs) are available to view on the Council's website- Barnet's Local Heritage List; Local Heritage List Additions 2022 and Selection Criteria (which includes details on consultation and engagement during the selection process for proposed new LLBs)</p> <p>Assets of Community Value are dealt with by the Council's Governance Service, and not by the LPA. As such, this is not a matter for the SCI.</p> <p>No further updates to the SCI required.</p>
<p>Section 2- Improved use of Barnet Council website is welcome, although "its current design and management make finding information difficult". TBC have not provided suggestions on how the website functions could be improved.</p>	<p>In recent years, the consensus and feedback received across the Service is that the Council's website is widely considered to be user friendly and the Council continues to work on new ways to provide the functionality of the website to provide update information on all Council matters.</p> <p>No further update to SCI required.</p>
<p>Paragraphs 3.3 & 3.5- Waste Management is briefly mentioned within the draft SCI and doesn't focus on or address community involvement on this matter. While the North London Waste Plan included public input, broader engagement is needed to reduce overall waste.</p>	<p>Para 3.3 of the draft SCI notes that our planning policy documents also includes the North London Waste Plan which sets out the planning framework for waste management in seven north London Boroughs including Barnet. In paragraph 3.5 (Stages in the preparation of plans) states that "Waste Plan are examples of DPDs, which have to be prepared in accordance with planning law and regulations".</p> <p>The SCI sets out the Council's commitment to community involvement and how it will achieve this throughout the Planning Service. Waste Services are consulted on</p>

integrating low-waste strategies particularly when new housing and other developments are at early planning stage is more cost effective and efficient.	planning applications as appropriate. No further update to SCI required.
Para 3.20 Whilst the details provided regarding Engage Barnet within the draft SCI are “generally accurate’, the online questionnaires should be “more user-friendly’ for community groups and less biased toward the Council’s preferred outcomes”.	The feedback is noted. Engage Barnet Consultation and Engagement Questionnaire Toolkit is designed to be user friendly and accessible for both Council staff and all members of the community. The questionnaire is organised into ten clear steps, covering everything from defining objectives to evaluating outcomes. It uses plain English, making it accessible to a wide audience. Further, the questionnaires have flexible and inclusive formats, Surveys can be completed online or on paper, depending on user preference. This flexibility helps ensure accessibility for residents with different needs and digital capabilities. In addition, Barnet Council offers support through its Consultation and Engagement Team, including templates, demographics question sets, and guidance on using tools like Microsoft Forms for online surveys. No further updates required to the SCI.
Paragraph 4.33- Monken Hadley Conservation Area (CA) should be added to the list of Advisory Committees.	Paragraph 4.33 will be updated to include Monken Hadley Conservation Area (CA) Advisory Committee.
Paragraph 4.67 relating to Planning Enforcement- The second part of this paragraph is unclear, and its wording should be revised for clarity.	The LPAs agree that the wording of the sentence in question should be clearer and the sentence will be reworded in the final SCI: <i>From</i> Members of the public can enquire about development that is occurring: Without planning permission or a similar consent such as Listed Building Consent Without complying with conditions that have been attached to a permission That is not in accordance with an approved plan. <i>To</i> <u>Members of the public can enquire about development where:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Construction works have commenced without planning permission or Listed Building Consent.</u> <u>Conditions attached to a permission are not complied with.</u> <u>Does not follow approved plans.</u>
Paragraph 4.68 -Whilst the opportunity to report suspected planning breaches online is welcomed, and reporting to the Councils Enforcement team can generate a prompt acknowledgement email from the service to the complainant, the follow up service could be improved to keep complainants updated on progress or investigation finding at key stages during the enforcement process.	The Planning Enforcement teams role is to investigate breaches of planning control and aims to resolve breaches through negotiation and where it is in the public interest we initiate legal action to secure compliance with planning legislation. Full details of the Planning Enforcement service commitments and timeframes they aim to adhere to can be viewed at: Barnet Council Planning Environment . No further updates to the SCI required.
The Silkstream Flood Group.	

<p>Residents in The Greenway were not consulted on the development of Watling Car Park, presumably because these residents are over 1km away from the site. A 1km consultation zone is flawed. The Greenway will be affected by this development on a Zone 3 floodplain upriver and therefore should be consulted as the flood risk impacts may change. All properties along a river floodplain need to be consulted even if over 1km away from the development, and their comments considered with appropriate migration measures.</p> <p>Comments made on an extension on a property at No 71 The Greenway must be considered and taken seriously, and mitigation measures suggested by consultees such as The Silkstream Flood Group to prevent water build up in front of their houses on The Greenway during a flood.</p>	<p>The SCI is a framework policy document outlining how the LPA or planning applicant will involve the community in the planning process, not the specifics of what was done for a particular application.</p> <p>Table 6 (How we consult on different types of planning applications) sets out the scope for issuing consultation letters to properties affected by a development. For example, for applications for major developments, letters will be sent to Owner/occupiers within a proximity to be agreed by Chief Planner and Where relevant, neighbourhood forums and residents' associations". The SCI does not commit to setting a fixed consultation radius for issuing consultation letters on planning applications due to the need for the LPA to apply appropriate contextual judgement on each case separately. The LPA is required to use planning judgment to decide who may be affected and tailor consultation accordingly. As set out within the draft SCI, the LPA use site notices, press adverts, and online portals to reach a wider audience.</p> <p>All comments received by the LPA will continue to be fully considered during the decision-making process and addressed within the Councils Committee and Delegated reports.</p> <p>No further update to SCI required.</p>
<p>Recent major development at Mar House (Barnet); The Northern Quarter (Brent); Everley House (Brent) have impacted the flood resilience of our (The Greenway) road. Barnet should clarify whether any of these developments had funds used from the Community Infrastructure Levy to mitigate the flooding in our road; and clarify whether there are elements in this plan to consider if a development is in another borough but also impacts property in Barnet.</p>	<p>The SCI is not intended to be a detailed account of every community engagement activity but rather a framework policy document outlining how the LPA or an applicant/developers will involve the community in the planning process, not the specifics on whether a specific development(s) had funds used from the Community Infrastructure Levy to mitigate flooding. Full details on Barnet's CIL can be viewed on the Councils website: planning-infrastructureplanning@barnet.gov.uk and Community Infrastructure Levy. Please email CIL@barnet.gov.uk to request specific information on CIL funding and spending on specific planning development if possible.</p> <p>No further update to the final SCI required.</p>
<p>Residents and the local community need greater assurance that they are better informed about planning and more involved in delivery the planning service</p>	<p>The SCI provides a strong commitment and mechanism for inclusive, transparent, genuine, and accountable engagement in accordance with statutory requirements. The key is to ensure continuous improvement on community engagement, monitoring, and facilitate public feedback to uphold these values as far as possible.</p> <p>As illustrated in Table 5, Consultation methods for planning applications meet and exceed statutory requirements.</p> <p>No further update to SCI required</p>
<p>Colindale Flood Group</p>	

<p>There are discrepancies in the stated closing date for the public consultation on the draft SCI—10th, 11th, and 14th July 2025—across different sources. In line with the Council's commitment to community engagement, it is requested that responses submitted by the latest of these dates (14th July) be accepted.</p>	<p>The draft SCI and other associated information were uploaded to Engage Barnet Friday 30th May in preparation for the commencement of public consultation commencing on Monday 2nd June. As such, the six-week public consultation period started on Monday 2nd June and finishes on 14th July (today). All comments received before midnight on 14th July have been considered, in line with the request made by Colindale Flood Group.</p> <p>No further update to SCI required.</p>
<p>Paragraph 2.4 should include the following bullet points regarding the Councils aims to ensure local communities are better informed about planning and the delivery of the planning service:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ensure that third parties involved in community engagement on behalf of the Council are required to demonstrate that they have followed the principles set out in the SCI • Ensure that any Council officer involved in community engagement are required to demonstrate they have followed the principles set out in the SCI. 	<p>Paragraph 2.4 of the draft SCI is clear that the Council aims to ensure alignment with the Councils detailed Community Participation Strategy and where appropriate the Councils Consultation Policy.</p> <p>All applicants are encouraged to follow the process and practices set out in the e SCI, and the additional text suggestion is not required for the SCI.</p> <p>No further update to SCI required.</p>
<p>Paragraph 2.12, the following text should be added for transparency: <i>"The results of our (the Councils) review will be published on a periodic basis."</i></p>	<p>Consultation responses received on planning applications are considered, analysed and addressed within Committee and Delegated Powers, as appropriate, Comments received on draft planning policy documents are monitored and analysed in Consultation Statements, which are analysed and monitored prior to adoption by the Council.</p> <p>There is no statutory requirement to publish the LPA's monitoring and analysis of customer service feedback details on a "periodic basis", nor is there a standardised National Framework for how LPA's should monitor and report on consultation outcomes. The LPA integrates feedback summaries into broader planning documents when appropriate. In addition, the Planning Policy team publish a summary of the feedback received <i>"We asked, You said, We did"</i> to the Councils website (Engage Barnet) shortly after a planning document is adopted. It is not necessary to do this prior to adoption, as the purpose of a Consultation Statement on the draft policy document (for example this Consultation Statement on the SCI) is to be produced after public consultation to be reviewed and considered by Cabinet meetings prior to reaching a decision on whether the final SCI can or cannot be approved for formal adoption.</p> <p>No further updates to the SCI required</p>
<p>Paragraph 3.4 (which lists policy documents the Council produce, but do not consult on) should also include :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infrastructure Funding Statement Report 	<p>The Council is required to publish an annual report/infrastructure Funding Statement. This report sets out the types of infrastructure that the charging Authority anticipates will be or may be funded by CIL and a report about CIL and planning obligations for the past financial year.</p>

	Paragraph 3.4 of the final SCI will be updated to add the <u>Councils Annual Infrastructure Funding Statement</u> report to the policy documents listed which we do not consult on.
Section 4 should include the following text: <i>“The dates for planning committees are based on specific trigger points...”</i> . The SCI should also indicate what those trigger points are.	Para 4.6 include the “most common triggers” for referral to the Strategic Planning Committee. The LPA works towards their own internal dates for Planning Committees. You can find out more information about the Councils constitution on our website: Decision making in Barnet Barnet Council . No update to the SCI required.
In Paragraph 4.23, the following text should be included in the SCI: <i>“In the event that an error in the planning notice is made, the Council will replace the notice as soon as is practical so that it is available to view by the public for the duration of the consultation period.”</i>	Site notices published close to an application site direct people to the Council’s website to view full details of the planning application. Should an error occur on the Site notice, for example the description of development, planning officers will resolve this error and correct the description of development on the Councils website immediately. The correct information will be subsequently reported in the LPA’s Committee and Report prior to determination of the application and will be reflected in the decision notice. No update to the SCI required.
Paragraph 4.34 should include an additional example of a valid objection to a planning application: <i>“increased flood risk”</i> . The Councils Planning website should also be updated to add “Flood Risk” as a material planning consideration.	Agreed. Paragraph 4.34 of the final SCI will be updated to include <u>“Flood Risk”</u> as a material planning consideration in the assessment of planning applications. The Council will also update the list material planning considerations cited on the Council’s planning website to include “Flood Risk”.
Para 4.35, further clarification is sought on the following sentence: “Anonymous and ‘in confidence’ comments will not usually be considered”.	Paragraph 4.35 will be updated in the final SCI to clarify that anonymous and ‘in confidence’ comments <u>will be mentioned in delegated, and committee reports but will not usually be considered by the LPA as part of the assessment of planning applications</u>
Paragraph 4.38: it is recommended that the following sentence is added: <i>“We (The Council) will improve the transparency regarding the number of responses received by stating the number of non-anonymised responses, the number of anonymised responses and the total number of responses”</i> . The Council publishes all the comments in Pdf in the documents page but only publishes (and counts) the non- anonymised comments on the comments page. This fails to capture the true scale of engagement. The Council should endeavour to improve the Planning Portal’s functionalities in the way suggested above.	Please refer to comment above, the number of anonymous and ‘in confidence’ comments can be mentioned in delegated, and committee reports but will not usually be considered by the LPA as part of the assessment of planning applications Planning is a public process. Comments submitted on applications become part of the public record and are open to inspection. This transparency helps ensure legitimacy, fairness and accountability in decision- making. Anonymous comments can undermine this principle. No further update to the SCI required.
Paragraph 4.50, - it is recommended that the SCI includes information about the publication schedule for planning committees.	This is not within the remit of the SCI. Full details on Committee are available to view on the Council website- Council, Cabinet Committees and Board meetings Barnet Council

With reference to public notification in advance of the Planning Committee, the Council should aim to inform the wider public (via Press notice) at the same time as informing those who have requested to speak so that the public (who may not have even been aware of an application until the consultation closed), can be made aware as early as possible.	<p>It is considered that the existing public notification arrangements in advance of Planning Committee meetings is effective and efficient, and supported by the Councils Governance Service.</p> <p>No further updates to the SCI required.</p>
Helen Newman - Age UK Barnet, A voluntary/community organisation for older people	
Section 2 – It is recommended that the word “elderly” is replaced with term “older people” as the latter reflects the Councils existing commitment to age friendly principles.	Paragraphs 2.7, 3.12 and 4.18 have been amended and the word “elderly” has been replaced with “ <u>older people</u> ”.
Policies and services should meet older people's needs, promote their well-being, and foster inclusive communities. Consulting older people leads to better-informed decisions, more effective service delivery, and helps prepare for future demographic changes.	<p>The Planning Service will add Age UK Barnet, A Voluntary/Community to the Councils internal database for Development Management and consulted on planning applications where a development is likely to impact older residents and when a development is specifically designed for older people (for example on planning application proposals for assisted living developments, or residential care homes for older adults)</p> <p>Age UK Barnet will also be added to the LPAs Planning Policy database.</p> <p>No further updates to the SCI required.</p>
Section 4 - Recent large-scale developments appear to lack specific provisions for older people and fail to address the disruption such changes may cause. Many older residents feel excluded from the planning process, or that their views and comments issued (whether individually or collectively as part of a group) to the LPA are ignored due to their age. There needs to be more inclusive and responsive engagement with older populations in planning decisions.	<p>Paragraph 3.26 on the draft SCI is clear that under the provisions of the public sector Equalities Duty (section 149 of the Equalities Act 2010), the Council has a statutory duty to consider the equalities impacts of its policies and decisions, on the following protected characteristics, which includes age. The SCI strongly commits to inclusive engagement for all to ensure people of all ages, including older residents are included and their voices are heard, considered and addressed during the decision-making process of planning applications. All consultation comments carry the same weight and are considered equally regardless of age cohort; these details are not required to be included within representations issued to the LPA on planning application.</p> <p>The Councils Community Participation Strategy 2022 provides more in-depth details on consultation and engagement with the Borough older population across all services.</p> <p>No further updates to the SCI required.</p>
Section 5 - Any consultation should include offline options, so older people are not excluded.	We have amended text related to consultation and engagement to reflect the preference to host online events for practical, policy, and resource related reasons. Online consultations can often be more inclusive for older people with mobility issues, and the LPA will continue to diversify participation beyond those who traditionally attend in person meetings to balance accessibility, efficiency, and inclusivity, which will meet, and in some instances, exceed the statutory requirements for public consultation and engagement.

	The LPA will continue to consider holding in-person events where proportionate and appropriate to do so.
Section 6. A request is made to clarify whether there are offline methods available for participation or engagement.	Please refer to response above
Section 7 - It is recommended to include older people as a key stakeholder group for consultation in the SCI.	The following has been added to paragraph 7.4 (General Consultation bodies): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Bodies which represent the interests of older people in the Local Planning Authority</u>
Inkluder- a Voluntary Organisation for LGBTQ+ Community	
<p><u>Section 1</u> Inkluder welcome the Statement of Community Involvement as a commitment to involving local people in planning decisions.</p> <p>The SCI should explicitly name and prioritise engagement with LGBTQ+ communities, who are often overlooked in planning and consultation. True inclusion requires targeted outreach to marginalised groups and creating safe, accessible pathways for participation. The document should include clear guidance and expectations for planners and developers to engage with LGBTQ+ and intersectional community groups—through trusted networks already working in the Borough such as Inkluder to ensure the voices of those who feel excluded are central to shaping the future of Barnet.</p>	<p>Supporting comments on the Planning Service commitment to involving the local community is welcomed. The final SCI has been updated to address consultation with the LGBTQ+ community. Inkluder will be added to the Planning Service consultation database.</p> <p>The SCI provides the principles, methods, expectations and standards for consultation and engagement regarding local planning documents and development management decisions for all members of the Barnet residents, the local community, groups and organisations. It is not intended or necessary to provide comprehensive information and guidance on each minority groups and communities separately, nor is it required to be a detailed strategy document, such as the Councils adopted Community Participation Strategy (CPS).</p> <p>As noted in the SCI, the Planning Service aims to ensure alignment with the Councils Community Participation Strategy (2022) and where appropriate the Councils Consultation Policy.</p> <p>No further updates to the SCI required.</p>
<u>Section 2</u> - The principles should include a clear commitment to using a range of engagement formats. Many LGBTQ+ residents and other marginalised groups may not feel comfortable attending formal meetings or using standard consultation tools.	<p>Paragraph 2.7 of the draft SCI is clear that groups/organisations which the LPA seeks to involve in planning matters, include organisations that represent the interests of specific parts of the community – for example sexuality and gender. Further, Paragraph 2.9 (first sentence) of the final SCI will be updated to state: “We will seek to involve those who don’t normally get involved in planning, for example by using existing groups and forums, such as the Barnet Disability Action Group, Youth Council, Barnet Multi Faith Forum, <u>and external organisations that represent the LGBTQ+ Community (such as Inkluder)</u>,”</p> <p>No further updates to the SCI required</p>

<p>The Planning Service should offer creative options such as anonymous online input, community led events, and arts-based workshops can create safer ways for people to share their views.</p>	<p>Anonymous and ‘in confidence’ comments will be mentioned in delegated, and committee reports but will not usually be considered by the LPA as part of the assessment of planning applications. Comments submitted on applications become part of the public record and are open to inspection. This transparency helps ensure legitimacy, fairness and accountability in decision- making. Anonymous comments can undermine this principle.</p> <p>The LPA cannot commit to offering in person engagement options such as arts-based workshops for any one group (i.e. LGBT+ community) and not all other minority group or organisation as it would not be feasible to do so, for reasons pertaining to logistics and resource constraints. Notwithstanding, the LPA will continue to consider holding in-person events where proportionate and appropriate to do so.</p> <p>No further updates to the SCI required.</p>
<p>The Council should commit to tracking participation to ensure that engagement reflects the full diversity of the borough. This includes identifying who is taking part, who is not, and addressing barriers. Voluntary demographic data collection can support this.</p> <p>The principles should highlight the importance of following up on feedback received. Communities should be told how their input has shaped plans and what steps are being taken next. This builds trust and encourages further engagement.</p>	<p>There is no statutory requirement to publish the LPA’s monitoring and analysis of customer service feedback details on regular basis nor is there a standardised national framework for how LPAs should monitor and report on consultation outcomes. Notwithstanding, the Planning Service is committed to continuous improvement, monitoring, and facilitate public feedback to uphold these values as far as possible. In addition to this the LPA continue to review the effectiveness of our engagement methods through the monitoring and analysis of customer feedback, comments of planning applications and consultation responses on planning documents.</p> <p>The LPA integrates feedback summarises into broader planning documents, committee ad delegated reports. Further, the Planning Policy team publishes a summary of the feedback received “<i>We asked, You said, We did</i>” to the Councils website (Engage Barnet) shortly following the adoption of a new planning policy document.</p> <p>No required for a SCI.</p>
<p><u>Section 3 –</u> should explicitly identify LGBTQ+ communities as a key group for engagement, which can be achieved by collaborating with organisations such as Inkluder. The Statement should commit to actively seeking out underrepresented voices and fostering ongoing relationships, rather than relying on one-off consultations. This approach supports long-term, meaningful participation in shaping inclusive spaces for all.</p>	<p>Agreed. Inkluder will be added to the Councils policy and Development Management consultee database. The SCI strongly commits to inclusive, transparent, genuine and accountable engagement for underrepresented groups to ensure legal compliance, and the protection of residents’ rights.</p> <p>No update to the SCI required.</p>
<p><u>Section 4 -</u> does not reflect the importance of inclusive engagement practices that actively reach LGBTQ+ residents and other marginalised groups who may not traditionally feel confident or safe engaging in public consultation.</p>	<p>As noted above, paragraph 2.9 (first sentence) of the final SCI will be updated to state: “We will seek to involve those who don’t normally get involved in planning, for example <u>by using existing external organisations that represent the LGBTQ+ Community (such as Inkluder),</u></p>

Applicants on planning proposals should demonstrate how they have considered inclusive design (for example including gender-neutral facilities, inclusive signage, accessible paths for mobility users, access to safe public facilities, and creative expressions of diversity through public art and placemaking) In addition, applicants should be encouraged to demonstrate how they have conducted community engagement during the design process with the LGBT plus Community and organisations like Inkluder.	The SCI outlines principles, methods, and standards for consultation and engagement regarding local planning documents and development management decisions and is not intended to provide a comprehensive detail on engagement for each individual organisation and group. Notwithstanding, applicants are required to submit a separate Statement of Community Involvement and where appropriate an EQIA for large scale planning applications to demonstrate how they have conducted community engagement, and provide details on the scope, methods, feedback received and how it was addressed. They are encouraged to reach all groups in society, including those who may be marginalised and underrepresented. However, the applicants Statement of Community Involvement is separate and does not fall within the scope and remit of the Councils SCI.
<u>Section 5</u> – This section does not mention how inclusive engagement will be resourced or evaluated, particularly in relation to marginalised groups such as LGBTQ+ communities, disabled people, or racial and ethnic minorities.	<p>The information provided on resourcing applies to all members of the community (including those with protected characteristics), and all groups, organisations, bodies, and associations equally.</p> <p>The SCI details the principles, methods, and standards for consultation and engagement regarding local planning documents and development management decisions. The SCI is not intended to be a detailed account on resourcing consultation and engagement for all marginalised groups and organisations separately. This is the beyond the remit and function of the SCI.</p> <p>No further updates to the SCI required.</p>
A feedback mechanism should be established to allow local community organisations to share whether they felt genuinely consulted and heard throughout the planning process. This would help improve future engagement and foster greater trust between the Council and its diverse communities.	<p>Para 2.3 -2.5 sets out the Councils approach to involving the community in planning. The Planning Service want to ensure local communities are better informed about planning and more involved in delivering the planning service by aiming to give feedback to comments made as part of the consultation on planning documents. Further, paragraph 2.12 is clear that the LPA will review the effectiveness of our engagement methods for planning applications and planning documents through the monitoring and analysis of customer feedback and consultation responses.</p> <p>To ensure the SCI meets statutory requirements, paragraphs 4.36-4.58 provide details on how the Planning Service uses comments and gives feedback. Paragraph 5.5 is clear that the LPA will continue to review the effectiveness of our engagement methods through the monitoring and analysis of customer feedback, comments of planning applications and consultation responses on planning documents.</p> <p>No further updates to the SCI required.</p>
<u>Section 6</u> It should be made clear that all online resources are:	The Equalities Act 2010 requires Councils to consider the needs of all residents, but it does not mandate translation into other languages (not a statutory requirement).

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • easy to navigate for people using screen readers or assistive technology • written in plain English, avoiding jargon and overly technical language • available in multiple languages or supported by translation tools regularly updated and clearly signposted from key Council landing pages 	<p>Barnet Council's website includes several features aimed at improving accessibility for people, who are visually impaired. Accessibility features include screen reader compatibility; keyboard navigation; and speech recognition software. It uses plain English, easy to read formats, and visual aids and diagrams to improve accessibility. For further information, please visit: Barnet Council website accessibility</p> <p>No further updates to the SCI required.</p>
<p>There should dedicated section for equality and inclusion-related planning considerations. For example, case studies or guidance that show how planning can support LGBTQ+ inclusion, accessibility, or cultural cohesion could help applicants better understand how to embed inclusion in their designs.</p>	<p>Paragraphs 3.26- 3.28 provides details on Equality Impact Assessments. Throughout the SCI, equality and inclusion information is provided in accordance with statutory requirements. Further details required by Inkluder are not required within the remit of the SCI.</p> <p>No further updates to the SCI required.</p>
<p><u>Section 7</u> The appendices should be clearly signposted throughout the main document. Including summaries or quick-reference icons within the core sections could help guide readers to the relevant appendices more intuitively.</p>	<p>The final SCI will be updated to include reference icons clicks to the appendices throughout the document. In addition, paragraph 7.4- (General consultation bodies) to be updated to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>bodies which represent the interests of the LGBTQ plus community in the Local Planning Authority's area</u>
<p>Additional details on how equalities data monitoring and its use to shape inclusive engagement would strengthen Section 7.</p>	<p>No further details on equalities data monitoring and engagement are required and beyond the merit and purpose of section 7 (Appendices) in the SCI.</p>
<p>James Edwin Masters - volunteer chair of The Grange Big Local Area located in East Finchley</p>	
<p><u>Section 1</u> should clearly state that its principles apply not only to formal planning applications but also to Council-led development vehicles (such as Places for Barnet LLP and other LLP's), land disposals, and regeneration projects. Since key decisions often occur before planning submission, communities must have the opportunity to engage at these early stages.</p>	<p>The Local Planning Authority does not deal with land disposals and does not distinguish between council-led planning applications and other applicants. The SCI principals apply to all applicants, developments, and planning applications whether it submitted to the LPA by a private developer; housing association; Places for Barnet LLP; or any other applicant. As such, there is no requirement to make a distinction as all applicants are expected to follow the same practices and processes set out in the SCI.</p> <p>No further updates to the SCI are required.</p>
<p>There should be a stronger commitment to early and meaningful engagement. Communities should be consulted before decisions are effectively made (e.g. before land is transferred or allocated to a delivery pipeline). Without enforceable timing or standards, "early engagement" risks becoming symbolic rather than substantive.</p>	<p>The commitments set out for early engagement are in accordance with the statutory requirements for an SCI. Land transfer matters, is outside the remit of the SCI.</p> <p>No further updates to the SCI required.</p>
<p>The SCI should improve accountability and measurability by including measurable commitments, such as minimum</p>	<p>The SCI provides a mechanism and strong commitment for inclusive, transparent, genuine, and accountable engagement and the SCI embeds strong procedural and ethical commitments, in accordance with statutory requirements. The key is to ensure</p>

timeframes for notification, public meetings, or routes for feedback.	<p>continuous improvement, monitoring, and facilitate public feedback to uphold these values as far as possible.</p> <p>No further updates to the SCI required.</p>
The SCI should include recognition of structured community-led groups such as Grange Big Local, Residents' Associations, or Neighbourhood Forums — and describe how these groups will be actively engaged as part of the consultation process, not treated as passive consultees.	<p>For clarify, the SCI does recognise community led groups (structured or otherwise), residents' associations and neighbourhood forums and sets out how the Planning Service will involve and engage with them on planning applications and the production of planning policy documents. It is beyond the scope of the SCI to list specific Residents Associations (RAs); Groups; bodies; Voluntary and non-Voluntary organisations.</p> <p>No further updates to the SCI required.</p>
Decisions made through Cabinet, delegated powers, or joint venture governance (like Places for Barnet LLP) can “bypass traditional public engagement routes”. The SCI should address how transparency and participation will be upheld in these contexts to ensure consistent public trust.	<p>The principles of decision making whether it be planning applications determined under delegated Powers or at Planning Committee level apply the same to all applicants, regardless of whether an application is submitted to the LPA on behalf of a private developer; housing association; joint venture partnership such as Places for Barnet LLP, or an individual resident in Barnet. Further, the SCI provides a strong commitment and mechanism for inclusive, transparent, genuine, and accountable community participation and the document embeds strong procedural and ethical commitments, applying a consistent approach to engagement for all applicants/developers, across all large-scale developments.</p> <p>No further updates to the SCI required.</p>
<u>Section 2</u> – The SCI should clearly state whether it applies to Council land disposals, regeneration projects, or development activity initiated by joint ventures (Council led regeneration and public private partnerships such as Places for Barnet LLP. These types of projects often have significant impacts on the community. The draft SCI appears to only address planning applications and plan-making, not the earlier stages that enable such developments.	<p>The SCI does not apply to land disposals as this matter is dealt with by the Councils Estates or Regeneration teams.</p> <p>As noted above, the SCI approach to consultation and engagement is the same across all types of planning applications, regardless of whether the applicant a private developer; housing association; joint venture partnership such as Places for Barnet LLP, or an individual resident in Barnet. There is no distinction required to be outlined for these as the as this is outside the remit of the SCI, as the overarching principles and details provided within the document are applicable to all.</p> <p>No further updates required to the final SCI.</p>
The Council should consider including specific characteristics (e.g. early, iterative, accessible, capable of influencing decisions) within the SCI so that residents understand what standard they can expect and how to evaluate whether genuine engagement has occurred.	<p>Additional wording as suggested is not required as the SCI as clearly set out how and when residents will be consulted upon, and how feedback will be evaluated and monitored, in accordance with the statutory requirements for this document.</p> <p>No further updates required to the SCI.</p>
The SCI should include accountability mechanisms by describing how it will be monitored, reported on, and enforced. If communities feel excluded or disregarded, there should be a	<p>The SCI provides a mechanism for strong commitment for inclusive, transparent, genuine, and accountable engagement and the document embeds strong procedural and ethical commitments. Paragraph 2.12 of the SCI clarifies the Planning Service will</p>

<p>clear route to raise concerns, beyond the existing formal planning complaints system.</p>	<p>review the effectiveness of our engagement methods for planning applications and planning documents through the monitoring and analysis of customer feedback and consultation responses. Further, paragraph 3.4 notes that the Council produces an Authority Monitoring Report which assesses the performance of our planning policies documents by considering their performance against a set of indicators.</p> <p>The SCI addresses complaints under the Planning Enforcement Section of the document. It is not proposed to introduce a new route/mechanism for residents to raise complaints as the current formal planning complaints system is operating effectively.</p> <p>No further updates to the SCI required.</p>
<p>The SCI should clarify how it supports transparency and engagement on decisions about assets or sites are made in Cabinet meetings or under delegated powers as these decisions affect future planning outcomes.</p>	<p>Assets of Community Value is a matter overseen by the Councils Governance Service, and not the Councils Planning Service. With reference to sites, regardless of whether they are Council owned; privately owned by one or multi developers/organisations 'partnerships, the details provided within the SCI applies the same to all.</p> <p>No further updates to the SCI required.</p>
<p><u>Section 3</u> outlines important values but should provide detail on implementation and how engagement will be structured, evidenced, and responded to.</p> <p>The SCI should acknowledge the roots of public (or reasons behind) community scepticism. Projects such as Places for Barnet LLP and related regeneration initiatives have led many residents to feel excluded from decisions that shape their area. An acknowledgment of this would enhance the SCI's credibility and demonstrate a commitment to learning from past experiences.</p> <p>The SCI should commit to clear feedback to demonstrate how public input will influence outcomes. For example, publishing "You said / We did" summaries at each consultation stage or tracking how community responses shaped the outcome.</p>	<p>As set out in paragraphs 5.4 and 5.5 of the SCI, planning legislation requires local authorities to review and update their Statement of Community Involvement every five years. When reviewing the Statement of Community Involvement, we will consider the experience of people and organisations consulted, and the need to change the types of groups consulted, which is an acknowledgment that lessons have been learnt for previous shortcomings. The Planning Service is committed to continuous improvement of our engagement methods through the monitoring and analysis of customer feedback, comments of planning applications and consultation responses on planning documents.</p> <p>The Planning Policy team publishes a summary of the feedback received "<i>We asked, You said, We did</i>" to the Councils website (Engage Barnet) shortly after a planning policy document is adopted. It is not required to do this prior to adoption, as the purpose of a Consultation Statement on the draft policy document (for example this subject Consultation Statement on the SCI) produced after public consultation and circulated to Cabinet Members in advance of a scheduled Cabinet meeting to determine with the document can or cannot be adopted.</p> <p>No further updates to the SCI required.</p>
<p>The proposed consultation approach with "seldom-heard" groups is welcome but should be supported by actions such as working with local Voluntary and Community Sector organisations;</p>	<p>With reference to providing translated materials, the Equalities Act 2010 requires Councils to consider the needs of all residents, but it does not mandate translation into other languages (not a statutory requirement). We have removed the requirement to</p>

providing translated materials, offering childcare at consultations; or using non-digital channels	<p>provide documents in translated, large print and audio formats as this is not a statutory requirement and demand is limited. The LPA will continue to keep this under review.</p> <p>Barnet Council's website includes several features aimed at improving accessibility for people, who are visually impaired. Accessibility features include screen reader compatibility; keyboard navigation; and speech recognition software. It uses plain English, easy to read formats, and visual aids and diagrams to improve accessibility. For further information, please visit: Barnet Council website accessibility</p> <p>All other suggestions are beyond the scope and remit of the SCI.</p> <p>No further updates to the SCI required.</p>
<u>Section 4</u> The SCI should acknowledge that developers, residents and voluntary groups operate with very different levels of power and resource. The Council should make clear how it will ensure that resident voices are not sidelined by professional or corporate interests.	<p>The SCI does provide a mechanism for inclusive, transparent, genuine, and accountable engagement and the document embeds strong procedural and ethical commitments, applying a consistent approach to engagement across the Planning Service. The SCI commits to ensure that residents and voluntary groups voice are equally heard, fully considered and assessed during the decision-making process on planning applications.</p> <p>It is beyond the function of the SCI discuss the assertion that developers, residents and voluntary groups may operate with very different levels of power and resource. Residents, voluntary groups and private developers are all expected to be fully aware and follow the same process and practices in the SCI.</p> <p>No further updates to the SCI required.</p>
Councillors' dual roles should be clarified within the SCI. Councillors are described as local liaisons, but some are also directly involved in regeneration partnerships and decision-making. The SCI should set out how potential conflicts of interest are managed and how councillor engagement with planning is made transparent and accountable.	<p>This matter is outside the remit of the SCI. Should there be a conflict of interest, Councillors are required to declare this prior to Cabinet and Committee meetings.</p> <p>No further updates to the SCI are required.</p>
It would be helpful to define how the Council identifies and works with structured local groups that have a mandate — such as Big Local areas, tenants' groups, or residents' forums — and how their input will be treated within the planning process.	<p>Paragraph 2.7's and 3.12 identifies groups the Planning Service seek to involve in planning matters, which include tenants and resident's associations; specialist interest / community organisations; and voluntary organisations; Neighbourhood Forums; Specialist interest / community organisations; tenants/resident's associations. In addition, the SCI provides details on ways the Council will engage with groups, including seldom heard and previously underrepresented communities in planning and details how we will include the Community in preparing our planning policies and planning applications, accordance with statutory requirements.</p> <p>No further update to the SCI required.</p>

<p><u>Section 5</u>- There should be clear minimum standards and notice periods set for the listed methods (letters, posters, digital platforms) of consultation. The SCI should state how many days' notices must be given, or what formats are required for key documents</p>	<p>The SCI does state the required notice period in accordance with statutory requirements. For example, site notices must be displayed minimum of 21 days. However, the SCI does include generally notice periods as it not a not statutory requirements, and the document is required to be flexible enough to cover a range of evolving best practices.</p> <p>No further update to the SCI required.</p>
<p>For major or contentious developments, the SCI should commit to direct, place-based localised engagement (e.g. meetings in the neighbourhood, site visits, events at local venues). This is particularly important for developments on or near Council-owned land</p>	<p>We have amended text related to consultation and engagement to reflect the preference to host online events for practical, policy, and resource related reasons. The LPA will continue to consider holding in-person events where proportionate and appropriate to do so.</p> <p>The consultation methods the SCI promotes—such as varied formats, flexible engagement options, and online accessibility—are naturally inclusive and can be particularly beneficial to older people with mobility issues; people with disabilities, including neurodiverse individuals; caregivers; and those in receipt of care. These approaches help ensure that individuals with diverse ways of understanding and communicating needs are better supported in participating meaningfully in planning processes. The Planning Service commits to diversify participation beyond those who traditionally attend in person meetings to balance accessibility, efficiency, and inclusivity. Overall, the SCI complies and goes beyond the statutory requirements for public consultation and engagement.</p>
<p>The SCI should ensure digital platforms support two-way communication and commit to offering in-person engagement options, especially for those directly affected by a proposal, and should require that require that all consultations include a clear “<i>We asked, You said / We did</i>” report or summary that shows how local input influenced outcomes or explains why it didn’t</p>	<p>The Planning Policy team Publishes a “<i>We asked, You said, We did</i>” summary on the Councils website upon adoption of a planning policy document. The LPA integrates feedback summaries into broader planning documents when appropriate. For planning applications, planning comments received are summarised and responded to within our Delegated and Committee Reports. All representations received are available for Committee and Cabinet Members to view in full prior to reaching their decisions and the Councils respective meetings.</p> <p>No further updates to the SCI required.</p>
<p><u>Section 6</u> The SCI should clearly commit to consulting residents at formative stages of policy-making not solely at the Regulation 18 or 19 stage when proposals are well advanced.</p> <p>For policy documents that affect specific communities or sites, the SCI should include a commitment to geographic notification — such as writing to affected residents or holding localised sessions. Digital and borough-wide notices are not enough where a neighbourhood is disproportionately impacted.</p>	<p>The SCI is not intended to be a detailed account of every community engagement activity but rather a framework policy document outlining how a Local Authority or planning applicant will involve the community in the planning process, not the specifics of what follows. The SCI details the principles, methods, and standards for consultation and engagement regarding local planning documents and development management decisions.</p> <p>The SCI sets out the Councils commitment to community involvement and how it will achieve this throughout the planning process, rather than a detailed report of each</p>

<p>The SCI should set out how consultation responses will be analysed and how results will be published. A commitment to sharing “<i>consultation outcome reports</i>” or “<i>We asked, You said / We did</i>” summaries would go a long way to building trust.</p> <p>The SCI should explain how planning policy engagement connects to decisions made through vehicles such as Places for Barnet LLP. Otherwise, the process risks appearing fragmented and unaccountable.</p>	<p>specific engagement.</p> <p>As addressed above, the Council publishes a summary of the feedback received “<i>We asked, You said, We did</i>” to the Councils website (Engage Barnet) shortly after a planning document is adopted. This is detailed within the Councils Community Participation Strategy 2022</p> <p>Engagement on applications via Places for Barnet LLP is the same as any other planning applications which propose similar scale of development.</p> <p>No further updates to the final SCI required</p>
<p><u>Section 7-</u> The SCI should do more to promote Neighbourhood Planning proactively and to encourage communities to explore the beneficial impacts of NP as a route to local influence and development management. and explain how the Council will help communities overcome challenges inherent with preparing a NP. For example, by facilitating access to technical advice, supporting collaborative forums, or signposting to external funding sources.</p>	<p>The SCI does promote and commits to strong community engagement on Neighbourhood Planning throughout the document. In paragraph 2.7, cites the groups we will seek to involve in planning matters, which include Neighbourhood Forums. Further, paragraphs 3.37-3.38 notes that Individual neighbourhood forums will determine the methods that they will use to bring a neighbourhood planning matter to the attention of people who live, work or carry out business in their area; and that their approach will be set out in the Forum’s Consultation Statement, which is submitted alongside the draft neighbourhood plan.</p> <p>With specific reference to Section 7, under Appendix 2, paragraphs 7.5 and 7.6 sets out the consultation bodies that the Neighbourhood Forum and Council have to consult at the relevant consultation stages in accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning Regulation 2012, and clarifies that a Neighbourhood Forum is required to submit a ‘Consultation Statement’ to the LPA when formally submitting the Neighbourhood Development Plan. This statement must detail the bodies consulted in the preparation stage.</p> <p>Any further details Neighbourhood Planning is beyond the scope, remit and requirements for the SCI. Full details on Neighbourhood Planning can be viewed on the following link: Neighbourhood planning Barnet Council</p> <p>No further updates to SCI required.</p>
<p>The SCI should acknowledge other forms of legitimate Community Organisations that are not formally designated as Neighbourhood Forums and describe how Barnet will engage them meaningfully in planning decisions, including on Local Plans and development strategies.</p>	<p>The SCI outlines who we seek to consult. Paragraph 2.7 provides a list of groups; organisations; associations, and partnerships and importantly conforms that it is “not exhaustive. In other words, other forms of legitimate community organisations will also engage upon, when deemed appropriate. Further, paragraph 3.3 and 3.4 of the SCI lists examples of policy documents the LPA produce and consult on, and a list of other documents the [Planning Service produce, which we do not consult upon, in according with statutory requirements.</p>

	<p>In addition, paragraph 7.4 highlights general bodies as consultees for planning policy documents,</p> <p>Any further detail and information on this matter would be outside the remit and function of the SCI. Full details on Planning policy documents and associated community engagement can be view on the Councils website by following the link below: Planning policies and Local Plan Barnet Council</p> <p>No further updates to SCI required.</p>
<p>For further transparency, the SCI should provide contact details of a support offer by naming a point of contact, publish a resource pack, and outline a typical timeline. The SCI should also state how the Council will ensure equal access to support across the borough, especially in less-resourced areas.</p>	<p>The SCI is a framework policy document outlining how a Local Authority or planning applicant will involve the community in the planning process, not the specifics of typical timelines for example on the delivery of a Neighbourhood Plan. Naming a person as a point of contact is impractical and not a requirement, particularly should said person leave the Council over the next 5 years (duration of this subject SCI). Publishing a resource pack falls outside the scope and remit of the SCI.</p> <p>Crucially, the SCI provides a strong commitment and an important mechanism for inclusive, transparent, genuine, and accountable engagement and the document already embeds strong procedural and ethical commitments, with a firm expectation that equal access to support throughout the Borough throughout is provided, which clearly includes residents in less resourced areas. The Planning Service is required to apply and follow all process and practices detailed within the SCI equally across the Borough. As such, the additional text suggestion is not required to be added to the final SCI.</p> <p>No further update to the SCI required.</p>
Christiana Dankwa- A Barnet Resident	
<p>With reference to the 6-week public consultation, the information on Engage Barnet on the Councils website noted that written represents that the 6-week public consultation ran from 29th May-10th July. However, consultees were advised on the 6-week public consultation ran from 2nd June to 14th July. Clarification is sought on the deadline for issuing comments on the draft SCI.</p>	<p>Officers previously respond directly to the individual would made this representation and advised that information was uploaded to Engage Barnet Friday 30th May in preparation for the draft SCI and other associated information was uploaded to Engage Barnet Friday 30th May in preparation for the commencement of public consultation commencing on Monday 2nd June. As such, the six-week public consultation period started on Monday 2nd June and finishes on 14th July (today). All comments received before midnight on 14th July have been considered, in line with the request made by local resident.</p>
Andrew Solomon - A barnet Resident	
<p><u>Section 1</u> should set out that the Planning Service will involve direct meetings with the residents in Barnet.</p>	<p>We have amended text related to consultation and engagement to reflect the preference to host online events for practical, policy, and resource related reasons. The LPA will continue to consider holding in-person events where proportionate and appropriate to do so.</p>

Section 2 - The principles lack clarity and strength, offering insufficient assurance that public voices will be able to meaningfully challenge Council perspectives.	<p>The SCI provides a strong commitment which aims to ensure public voices will be heard on planning applications and planning policy documents.</p> <p>No further updates to the SCI required.</p>
Section 3 -The commitment to community consultation is inadequately framed. It must be strengthened to reflect a clear obligation to engage directly with local residents,	<p>The SCI provides firm assurance and a clear commit to engage with local residents and the community, in accordance with statutory requirements.</p> <p>No further updates to the SCI required.</p>
Section 4 - The SCI notes that the LPA “may” hold planning meetings with residents, but it should commit to hold meetings with local residents and local community which are impacted by development.	<p>Please refer to the Officers response to the resident’s similar comment made on Section 1 of the SCI above.</p> <p>No further updates to the final SCI required.</p>
Section 5 - Residents resource the LPA to liaise in person with the local community.	<p>Please refer to the Officers response to the resident’s similar comment made on Section 1 of the SCI above.</p>
Justin Tsui A Barnet resident	
Section 2-Community involvement in planning is inadequate. Online questionnaire with no physical engagement is insufficient. A range of methods of consultation should be used, such as on-the-street consultation located on high streets and highly visible to the public.	<p>Consultation and engagement reflect the preference to host online events for practical, policy, and resource related reasons. The LPA will continue to consider holding in-person events where proportionate and appropriate to do so.</p> <p>The consultation methods the SCI promotes—such as varied formats, flexible engagement options, and online accessibility—are naturally inclusive and can be particularly beneficial to older people with mobility issues; people with disabilities, including neurodiverse individuals; caregivers; and those in receipt of care. These approaches help ensure that individuals with diverse ways of understanding and communicating needs are better supported in participating meaningfully in planning processes. The Planning Service commits to diversify participation beyond those who traditionally attend in person meetings to balance accessibility, efficiency, and inclusivity.</p> <p>Barnet Council’s online questionnaires are comprehensive and offer ample opportunities for participants to express their views on open ended questions within each section of a draft planning policy document. The comments received are considered, assessed and responded to thoroughly in a transparent manner within the Cabinet Report and the Consultation Statement, which are circulated to Cabinet Members well in advance of the Cabinet meeting for their consideration. In addition, Members are made aware that all representation received can be made available to view in full upon request.</p>
Section 3 - Should include more detail on how petitions are handled and better integrated into the planning policy process—such as during plan preparation to encourage greater public input. In the preparation of planning policy documents, there should be meetings and open workshops with the Community. Participants	<p>Petitions received on draft planning documents and full planning applications, are assessed the same as any other representation received, and the number of names on a signed petition is accurately report within a Consultation Statement (following public consultation on draft policy document; and within a delegated or committee report prior and consider accordingly during the decision making process, prior to the adoption of a policy document, and determination of a planning application. The Council accepts both</p>

<p>should be allowed to submit plans and provide detailed feedback beyond completing a fixed online questionnaire.</p>	<p>hard copies and e- petitions. For further information on the Council's general approach to petitions, please view the link below for further details: Get involved: Petitions to the borough council Barnet Council</p> <p>No further updates to the final SCI required.</p>
<p><u>Section 4</u> The Online map of planning applications consultation method should be statutory requirement. In a digitising world, site notices alone are insufficient.</p>	<p>Online map of planning applications and their status across the Borough with filters is a non-statutory service the LPA provide to assist both applicants, and the local community, and is accessible at all. The Council does not have the powers to designate this service as a statutory requirement; this would have to come down from Government level.</p> <p>Table 5 of the SCI details the LPA's methods of consultation for planning applications, which includes 3 statutory requirements (for example Site Notices), and 4 non-statutory methods of consultation. The LPA goes above and beyond what is required for consulting on planning applications to ensure that this comprehensive outreach to the wider community in the Borough can result in a greater level of input from the local and wider community during the decision-making process.</p> <p>No further updates to the SCI required.</p>
<p>All residents within a "suitable radius" should be notified on proposed large-scale developments. As an example, "North Finchley town centre regeneration masterplan" community involvement is low and there should be more direct engagement, such as in-person surveys on the high street. Community voices must be prioritized and not overshadowed by developers /applicants interests in the decision-making process</p>	<p>Table 6 (How we consult on different types of planning applications) in the SCI sets out the instances when the LPA will issue consultation letters to properties affected by a development. For example, for applications for major developments, letters will be sent to Owner/occupiers within proximity to be agreed by Chief Planner and where relevant, neighbourhood forums and residents' associations". The LPA does not commit to setting a fixed consultation radius for issuing consultation letters on planning applications due to the need for the LPA to apply appropriate contextual judgement on each case separately. The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure 2015 requires LPAs to publicise planning applications; but it does not prescribe a fixed radius for consultation.</p> <p>A spatially fixed radius for consultation would not be feasible nor a statutory requirement for engagement on a development within the North Finchley Town Centre Regeneration Area. A rigid consultation practices could be challenged if they fail to consider material impacts beyond the set radius LPAs are required to use planning judgment to decide who may be affected and tailor consultation accordingly. As set out within the draft SCI, the LPA use site notices, press adverts, and online portals to reach a wider audience.</p> <p>No further updates to the SCI required.</p>
<p><u>Section 5</u> - Financial pressures must outweigh community input and public involvement as an essential step to decision-making. At minimum physical meetings involving individuals and community groups.</p>	<p>The SCI is open and transparent that undertaking consultation is an integral part of work of the planning service, but it is also resource intensive. There are direct costs in terms of resources and staff time (as clarified in paragraph 5.3). The Planning Service's</p>

	approach to involving the community is set out in paragraphs 2.3 -2.5 in the SCI, which accords with statutory requirements.
<u>Section 7</u> – Should include Active Travel England as a consultee	Update paragraph 7.4 to add <u>Active Travel England</u> (ATE) to the list of Statutory Consultees of large-scale planning applications. on planning policy documents. ATE will be added to the Planning Service consultation databases both in Development Management and Planning Policy Teams.
M. Westlake, - A Barnet Resident	
<u>Section 1</u> There is a lack of accountability in the current approach to public communication. Residents can feel overlooked in key decisions, which in turn undermines community rights and access to resources that support quality of life. The Council should acknowledge these concerns and commit to transparent, inclusive, and accountable engagement practices that reflect the lived experiences of all residents.	The SCI does provide a mechanism for inclusive, transparent, genuine, and accountable engagement. The document embeds strong procedural and ethical commitments, applying a consistent approach to engagement across the Planning Service. Importantly, the SCI commits to ensure that residents voices are heard and considered during the decision-making process on planning applications. No further updates to the SCI required.
<u>Section 2</u> There can be a lack of meaningful consultation with those most directly affected to new development. When complaints are raised, response often come from the same planning officers whose actions are under scrutiny, undermining trust in accountability mechanisms such as the Ombudsman. The Council must demonstrate a commitment to genuine, fair and transparent engagement, legal compliance, and equitable treatment of all communities.	Please refer to responses above.
<u>Section 3</u> Financial motivations are driving planning outcomes, often at the expense of residents' rights and wellbeing. The Council must demonstrate a clear commitment to inclusive, transparent, genuine and accountable engagement, legal compliance, and the protection of residents' rights.	The Planning Service is required to be democratic and does not prioritise development over residents' wellbeing. The SCI strongly commits to inclusive, transparent, genuine and accountable engagement to ensure legal compliance and the protection of residents' rights. Our consultation practices meet our statutory requirements for consultation on planning documents and planning applications. The Service will review, and, wherever possible, seek to improve how we consult and involve the local community, subject to the availability of resources and other relevant considerations No further updates to the SCI required.
Section 4- The SCI should clarify the Council's core principles and obligations in relation to its own development projects. There appears to be a disconnection; lack of accountability; and genuine engagement with the local community. The principle of "putting residents first" must be more a slogan it should be reflected in practice.	The SCI is a framework policy document outlining how a Local Authority or planning applicant will involve the community in the planning process, not the specifics of on what the core principles and obligations in relation to its own development projects. This is outside the scope and remit and purpose of the SCI. As stated in paragraph 3.1, The Council's approach to effective engagement is set out in the Community Participation Strategy 2022. To ensure Local Communities are better informed about planning and more involved in delivery the planning service, the

	<p>Councils aims to ensure alignment with the Councils Communication Participation Strategy.</p> <p>Crucially, the SCI provides a strong commitment and mechanism for inclusive, transparent, genuine, and accountable engagement- and the documents embeds strong procedural and ethical commitments, in accordance with statutory requirements. The key is to ensure continuous improvement on community engagement, monitoring, and facilitate public feedback to uphold these values as far as possible.</p> <p>No further action required.</p>
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