

How to see the Submission SCI and make any representation on it

The Submission SCI can be seen on the Council's website www.winchester.gov.uk where there is an on-line Representation Form. The SCI and Representation Forms are also available at:

- The Council's main City Offices, Colebrook Street and at Avalon House, Chesil Street, Winchester.
- Hampshire County Council Information Centres at Winchester and Waterlooville.
- All local and branch libraries in the Winchester District.
- Other libraries at Basingstoke, Chandlers Ford, Eastleigh, Fair Oak, Fareham, Havant, Hedge End, Petersfield and Waterlooville.

All Town and Parish Councils within and adjacent to the Winchester District have been sent a copy of the SCI and Representation Forms, along with neighbouring District Councils. You may find it easier to look at a copy of the SCI held by any of these organisations.

If you would like to obtain copies of the SCI or Representation Form, or to receive a copy in another format, please telephone 01962 848 222

Contacts

Representations, to arrive not later than 5.00 p.m. on Thursday 12th October 2006, should be sent:-



In writing to the Head of Strategic Planning, Winchester City Council, Avalon House, 13-15 Chesil Street, Winchester, SO23 0HU



Faxed to 01962 849 101

Emailed to

strategicplanning@winchester.gov.uk



Completed on-line at www.winchester.gov.uk

Telephone calls may be recorded

Winchester District

Statement of Community Involvement



Part of the Winchester District Local Development Framework



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The need for improving community involvement

Recent changes in legislation have changed the way the City Council must plan for the use of land within its District and how decisions are taken on planning applications.

To meet these requirements and also improve the way in which the Council, individuals, local communities and groups can work effectively in partnership, across a wider range of Council activity, we need to build on existing proven methods for informing and involving people.

We also need to develop new opportunities which can help reach more people, improve areas of contact and lead to more information sharing and greater public participation in locally important issues.

Developing a Statement of Community Involvement

To carry this process of change forward, all local councils must develop and adopt a 'Statement of Community Involvement' (SCI), to explain how everyone can take part, especially where it concerns land planning policies and planning applications.

Since autumn 2005 we have worked on gathering information and talking to individuals, Parish and Town Councils, businesses and groups. This involved various events for 'stakeholders' and analysing the results of a widely-distributed questionnaire. We then used what you told us to produce a draft Statement of Community Involvement earlier this year.

The first Draft of the Statement

We published the first draft version of the SCI for a 6-week public consultation, beginning in March. We invited everyone to provide comments and feedback, which we could then use to make improvements.

At that stage, we were particularly interested to know about things people felt we had missed out or not given enough attention to. Following on from that, a revised Statement of Community Involvement has been produced which incorporates the Council's consideration of the public response and the many comments and suggestions made.

The Revised Statement – your chance to have a further say

This 'Submission' SCI is in a final draft form which has been submitted to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government. To coincide with this, there is another chance for everyone to give their own formal response to this revised version of the SCI. So, over the next six weeks, the Council would like to hear your reactions.

Independently assessing the SCI

The next stage will then be for the Submission Draft to be examined by an independent Inspector who, after having taken account of views for or against the Statement's approach and content, may tell the Council to make further changes.

This examination stage will be mainly focused on the Inspector's assessment of whether or not the Council's SCI has been shown to be 'sound', both in its content and approach. To guide the Inspector in this assessment, certain 'Tests of Soundness' have been laid down by central government. It is important that any submission you may wish to make uses the same 'tests', which are set out in full in the Submission SCI and repeated on the Representation Form that accompanies the document.

Following the examination stage, the Inspector will submit a report of his/her findings and recommendations which will be binding. The Council will then adopt the SCI as the key document that sets out its standards and methods for informing and involving residents, Parish and Town Councils, partners and other groups in what it is doing and is planning to do.