

Addendum to the Statement of Community Involvement

October 2020

This document establishes a temporary addendum in respect of the Council's standards for involving the community in the planning process, in relation to the Government requirements for preventing the spread of COVID-19 and reflecting the adaptations in service delivery.

This addendum should be read alongside the original adopted Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) which can be found on our website

- https://www.dacorum.gov.uk/docs/default-source/strategic-planning/statement-of-community-involvement---adopted-september-2019.pdf?sfvrsn=3f71099e_4

These proposed amendments are temporary and apply only to the consultation published under Regulation 18 of The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 – **Dacorum Local Plan 2020-2038 -The Emerging Strategy for Growth**, until this statutory period of consultation ends, at which point the Council will revert back to the original Statement of Community involvement adopted September 2019.

The purpose of the SCI is to outline the Council's standards for community involvement in the planning process and to identify ways these standards will be achieved. The latest version of the SCI was adopted in September 2019.

National Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) has recently been updated due to the COVID-19 Pandemic and recommends 'Where any of the policies in the Statement of Community Involvement cannot be complied with due to current guidance to help combat the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19), the local planning authority is encouraged to undertake an immediate review and update the policies where necessary so that plan-making can continue'¹.

The updated guidance then goes on to state that 'The local planning authority should then make any temporary amendments that are necessary to allow plan-making to progress'².

The Government also introduced temporary changes in the law. In the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) (Coronavirus) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 Regulation 35(1)(a) was omitted from 16/07/2020 – 31/12/2020.

There are a number of ways in which the council is having to adapt the approach to planning decisions and plan making. These changes are necessary to allow plan-making to progress

¹ National Planning Policy Guidance: Delivery of strategic matters (077 Reference ID: 61-077-201200513)

² National Planning Policy Guidance: Delivery of strategic matters (078 Reference ID: 61-078-201200513)

and that we continue to promote effective community engagement by means which are reasonably practicable.

The following table sets out the specific temporary amendments which are required to the SCI and explains the reasons for these:

SCI Section	SCI Reference	Change to SCI	Explanation
Section 4 – Table 1 Methods of Communication during consultation	“Making documents available for inspection at specified ‘Deposit Points’ within the Borough is a minimum requirement set by planning regulations. Deposit points are the Borough Council Offices in Hemel Hempstead, Berkhamsted and Tring.”	“Making documents available for inspection at a specified ‘Deposit Point’ within the Borough is a minimum requirement set by planning regulations. This Deposit point is the Borough Council Office in Hemel Hempstead”	<p>Regulation 35 states that a document is taken to be made available when - made available for inspection, at their principal office and at such other places within their area as the local planning authority consider appropriate, during normal office hours.</p> <p>For the purposes of the SCI ‘Deposit Points’ are the Borough Council Offices in Hemel Hempstead, Berkhamsted and Tring.</p> <p>The Forum in Hemel Hempstead is the principal office and will remain open to the public on an appointment only basis. Those wishing to access the document from this office will need to contact strategic planning in order to book an appointment.</p> <p>The customer service units at Berkhamsted and Tring council offices are closed to the public currently with no plans to re-open during the consultation period. Therefore the council cannot make the document available for inspection at these locations.</p>
Section 4 – Table 1 Methods of Communication during consultation	“Copies of documents are also sent to local libraries within the area and are usually held within the reference section.”	“Copies of documents are also sent to local libraries within the area which are COVID-19 secure and open to the public. These will be available on a loan service as	<p>The council has engaged with the County Council in providing hard copy documents in Dacorum Libraries.</p> <p>Therefore, a loan service will be available from Hemel Hempstead, Berkhamsted and Tring libraries.</p>

		customer browsing hours are limited during the pandemic.”	
Section 4 Table 2 - Methods to overcome consultation challenges	“Documents will be made available in paper form as well as online. The community is able to access online services by using the public computers at either Dacorum’s council offices or within the local libraries.”	“Documents will be made available in paper form as well as online. The community is able to access online services by using the public computers within the local libraries which are open to the public.”	It is possible to book the use of a public computer at The libraries in Hemel Hempstead, Berkhamsted and Tring for a maximum of one hour. There is no use of public computers at the offices at Berkhamsted and Tring as they remain closed to the public.
Section 5 when will we consult – Stage 1 Prepare Plan (Regulation 18) Page 27	“How will Dacorum Borough Council Consult? (6 th bullet point) Make plans available on our website and at deposit points.”	“How will Dacorum Borough Council Consult? (6 th Bullet Point) Make plans available on our website and at the deposit point on an appointment only viewing basis.”	For the purposes of this consultation the deposit point is the principal office at the Forum Hemel Hempstead. This remains open to the public on an appointment only basis. The Council is committed to making a hard copy document available at this deposit point and will make documents available online on the strategic planning website. Arrangements will be made to arrange the purchase of a hard copy document in the post (call 01442 228660 or email strategic.planning@dacorum.gov.uk for more information).

Library opening hours can be found at the Hertfordshire County Council Libraries website: <https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/Libraries-and-archives/Library-opening-hours/Library-opening-hours-and-locations.aspx> alongside how to book use of a public computer.

In the event of changes by the Government to the requirements for preventing the spread of COVID-19, this addendum will be reviewed and either updated or suspended, as appropriate. If you have any questions on any of the changes outlined in this addendum please contact the planning policy team

- Email: strategic.planning@dacorum.gov.uk
- Phone: 01442 228660