STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Summary of Key Points

- Eastbourne Borough Council is required to produce a Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) to show how local people will be consulted in the planning process.

- A new SCI has been published to allow the local community and other interested parties to comment between 24 March and 19 May 2017. The consultation can be accessed via [www.eastbourne.gov.uk/sci](http://www.eastbourne.gov.uk/sci).

- Eastbourne Borough Council’s Planning Officers prepare the local policy and assess applications and provide advice to elected Councillors, who are responsible for approving planning policy documents and plans and making decisions on whether planning permission should be granted.

- Local policy is made through the preparation of a Local Plan, which sets out what development is needed over a 15/20 year period and where it should be provided.

- There are a number of stages in the preparation of a Local Plan, including public examination by a Planning Inspector. Therefore the preparation of a Local Plan can take some time. The Council sets out its timetable for the preparation of Local Plans in a document called the Local Development Scheme (LDS).

- There are usually 4 stages of consultation on the preparation of a Local Plan, but the main consultation period is the ‘Issues and Options’ stage, which lasts for a minimum of 8 weeks. Other consultation periods last for a minimum of 6 weeks.

- Consultation is ‘digital by default’ and can be accessed via the Council’s on-line consultation portal. Consultation will be promoted via direct emails, local media and local councillors.

- Other consultation methods that could be used include: social media, public exhibitions, leaflets, summary documents, presentations and via community groups/associations.
• Representations made will be recorded through the on-line Consultation Portal. Any representations received cannot be treated in confidence and anonymous comments cannot be accepted.

• Following consultation, feedback on the representations received and how they will be addressed in the next stage of plan making will be published.

• Decisions on whether or not planning permission should be granted for development will depend on what the Local Plan says about it. These decisions are made by either: elected Councillors on the Planning Committee; or by the Senior Specialist Advisor in consultation with the Chair of Planning Committee.

• Eastbourne Borough Council is committed to informing and engaging with the community on planning applications. Planning Applications will be publicised through: notification letters to neighbours, sites notices, public notices in a local newspaper and through the Council’s website. The local community and interested parties will have no less than 21 days to comment on an application, or no less than 14 days where a notice is published in a local newspaper.

• Local Communities are able to produce their own plans for their local area by preparing a Neighbourhood Plans, Neighbourhood Development Orders and Community Right to Build Orders. As the Eastbourne Borough does not have Town or Parish Councils, Community-led planning can only be undertaken by a Neighbourhood Forum, which is made up of a minimum of 21 people who live or work in the neighbourhood area.

• Further information and advice on planning matters is available from Eastbourne Borough Council. Please contact the Customer Contact Centre at:
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(01323) 410000
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