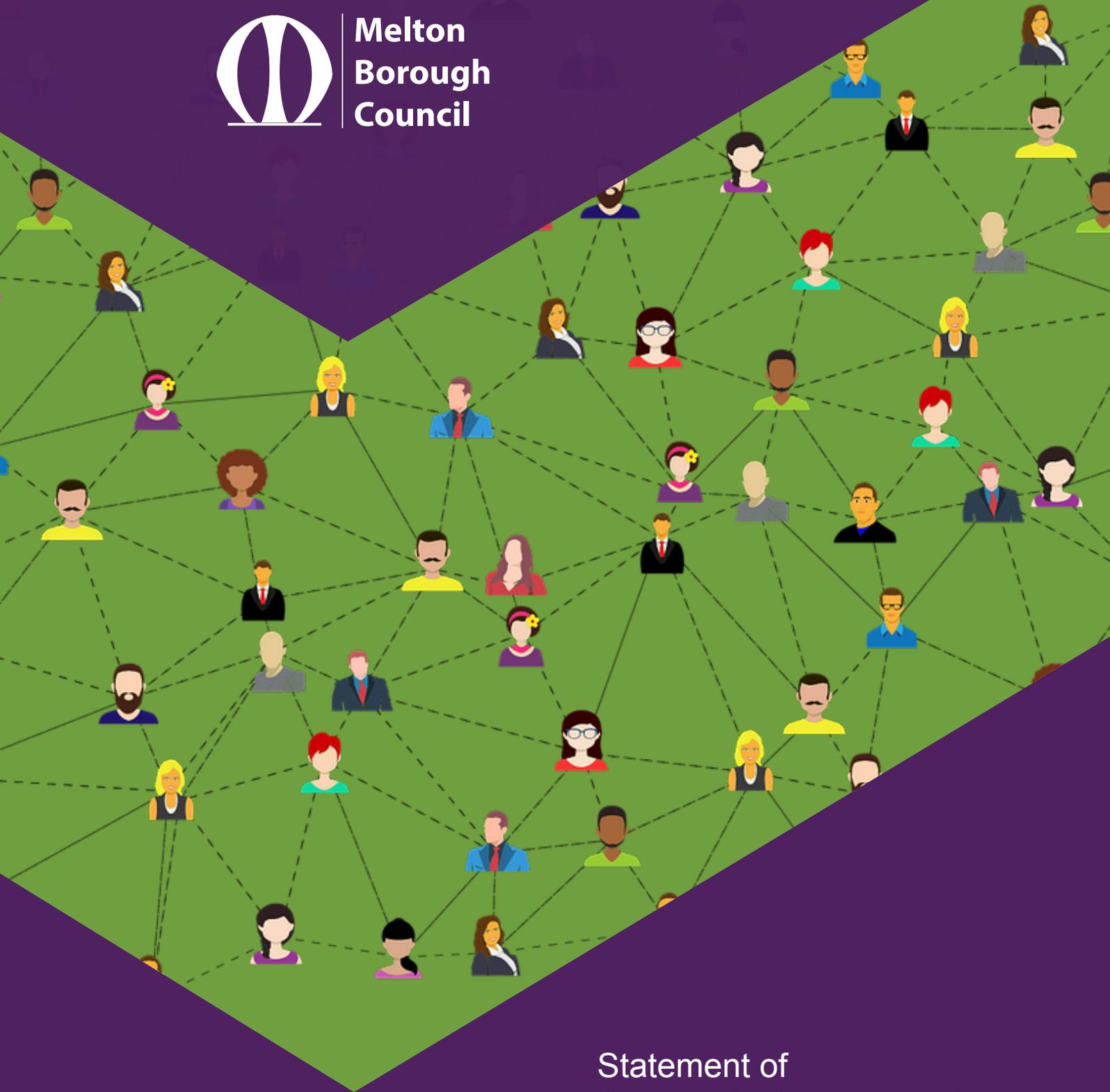




Melton
Borough
Council



Statement of Community Involvement November 2019

Introduction

Please note that this document is one of a series which make up the full Statement of Community Involvement and therefore should be read in context with the rest of the document which can be found here: www.meltonplan.co.uk/sci

Part 1

Introduction

1. What is a Statement of Community Involvement?

- 1.1 Planning shapes the spaces we live and work in. It is therefore right that people should be able to take an active part in planning processes. The objective is to operate an open and transparent process where communities and stakeholders are encouraged to be involved in and have ownership of the decisions being made in the preparation of Planning Policy Documents, and to have their views considered in the determination of planning applications.
- 1.2 A Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) is a document that Councils are required to produce which sets out how the community can be involved in the preparation of planning policy documents and how they can have their say on planning applications. A SCI states who the Council will consult and engage with, when and how, for each of the planning functions it performs.
- 1.3 The Melton SCI provides clarity on the extent of community involvement that will take place, as the Council fulfils its range of its planning functions. It sets out the key standards we will aim to achieve when involving the community throughout the preparation of planning policy documents. It also describes how we will involve the community when we consider planning applications, and how we will engage with communities preparing Neighbourhood Plans.
- 1.4 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), published in February 2019 stresses the importance of a plan-led system and re-iterates the role of early and meaningful engagement and collaboration with local people, organisations and businesses to produce a Local Plan that reflects the vision and aspirations and best meets the needs of local communities.
- 1.5 The National Planning Practice Guidance states that:
“Section 18 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires local planning authorities to produce a Statement of Community Involvement, which should explain how they will engage local communities and other interested parties in producing their Local Plan and determining planning applications. The Statement of Community Involvement should be published on the local planning authority’s website.”(Planning Practise Guidance 15-004-20140306) (06.03.14)

- 1.6 From April 2018, under Regulation 10A of The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended), local planning authorities must complete a review of the Statement of Community Involvement every five years.
- 1.7 This is the fourth Melton Statement of Community Involvement. The first Statement was published in October 2006. Changes to the planning system resulted in revisions to this in 2011 and 2014.
- 1.8 Further changes to the planning system mean that the 2014 Statement is now no longer representative of how we wish to involve and engage with the community, partners, neighbouring authorities and others to achieve sustainable development, whether this is in the preparation of development plan documents and new planning guidance, dealing with planning applications or in supporting the preparation of neighbourhood plans. For example, it does not reflect the technological changes which have increased the range of means available for consultation and engagement beyond the more traditional methods of consultation and use of webpages, social media, electronic forums and notice boards. This revised SCI is also an opportunity for the Council to set out how we will engage with groups preparing or revising neighbourhood plans.
- 1.9 The remainder of this document is set out as follows:

Part 2: Community involvement in Planning Policy

Local Plans

Supplementary Plan Documents

Community Infrastructure Levy

Sustainability Appraisals

Non-Statutory Planning Documents

Part 3: Neighbourhood Planning and MBC Community Involvement

Neighbourhood Plans

Part 4: Community involvement in Development Management

Pre-applications

Planning Applications

Determining Applications

Appeals

Review

Review of the Statement of Community Involvement

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Methods of Engagement

Appendix 2 – List of potential consultees

Appendix 3 – Glossary

Appendix 4 – Useful links

- 1.10 Each of the sections above in italics, together with the introduction are also available as separate 'take-away' documents.