

**Statement of Community Involvement
Temporary Addendum
3 June 2020**

Due to the current and ongoing government guidance to help combat the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19), it may not be possible for the local planning authority to meet some of the policies set out in the adopted Statement of Community Involvement (2019). In view of this, the council has produced a temporary addendum to the Statement of Community Involvement which sets out the alternative communication and participation methods the local planning authority may use.

In the first instance, the council will seek to meet the requirements of the adopted Statement of Community Involvement (2019) where reasonably practicable and will continue to review this addendum as legislation and government guidance is updated. This will enable the council to continue to promote effective community engagement and allow plan-making to progress.

How we consult on the Local Plan

SCI requirement	Possible restrictions	Alternative methods
Letters	The council's ability to send letters, and the ability of residents to receive letters may be limited.	Send emails where available, use social media such as twitter, and/or publish public notices in the Leicester Mercury online.
Exhibitions and presentations	Holding an exhibition or presentation might not be appropriate as people may be required to stay at home, possible venues may not be open to members of the public, or restrictions could be placed on meetings /gatherings including social distancing requirements.	Online discussion or presentation.
Workshops	Holding a face to face workshop might not be appropriate as people may be required to stay at home, possible venues may not be open to members of the public, or restrictions placed on meetings including social distancing requirements.	Online meetings / workshops.
Material available for inspection at the council offices, libraries and customer service centres.	Businesses and venues including libraries, community centres, and customer service centres may be closed to the public.	Materials available on the council's website with online signposts to the location of documents.

How to comment during a Local Plan consultation

SCI requirement	Possible restrictions	Alternatives methods
<p>Comments made verbally or in writing during any of the consultation events will be recorded for consideration by the council.</p>	<p>The council's ability to send letters, and the ability of residents to receive letters may be limited or there may be restrictions for arranging face to face meetings such as exhibitions, presentations or workshops.</p>	<p>Online methods of consultation. A summary of the discussion/meeting. All attendees will be encouraged to submit comments online via the council's website.</p>
<p>On request council officers will complete these forms on behalf of any member of the public who experiences difficulties in making written representations, e.g. for reasons of language or visual impairment.</p>	<p>Limited opportunities for face to face verbal communication, or receiving written communication (e.g. letters).</p>	<p>Where a member of the public experiences difficulties in making written representations online, e.g. for reasons of language or visual impairment, or they do not have access to the internet, then an individual may nominate an advocate to share views on their behalf. Where existing communication methods are not feasible and alternatives cannot be identified, an individual may also be able to make representations by telephone. This must be arranged and agreed with the council.</p>

Comments were invited on the temporary addendum to the statement of community involvement. The views received and the response from the council has been summarised below.

Status	SCI addendum comments summary	LCC response
Statutory Consultees	We have no comments to provide in relation to this consultation document although we welcome the clear arrangements set out by the Council which will be applied while COVID-19 restrictions are in place to enable the Council to continue to promote effective community engagement and allow plan-making to progress.	Thank you for your comments.
Members of the public	Having reviewed the document we have no adverse comments to make.	Thank you for your comments.
	We have reviewed the above document and can confirm that National Grid has no comments to make in response to this consultation.	Thank you for your comments.
	No comment. All good.	Thank you for your comments.
	I need you to see a building I am objecting to at the rear of my property - you have failed to contact me back in 2 months	Please email planning@leicester.gov.uk
	Switch to only electronic communication will remove valuable members of the public from this process. Helping people who aren't online and can't attend is good, recording comments via phone is good, but this should be arranged and agreed with the council also via phone.	The council will send letters and leaflets if postal services are available. Individuals who do not have access to the internet will be able to ring the customer service centre to discuss the best way to share their views.
	Comments can be made by sending texts from any mobile phone to the designated landline numbers. I have successfully used it in the past to communicate with various council teams. Voice mail version of the texts can be recorded as applicable.	The council will try to use a number of ways for individuals and stakeholders to share their views on the local plan, and will consider the option of receiving comments via text message.
It's really important that where you do discussions/ workshops online you support participants to ensure: 1) They have used, or understand how to use, the technology e.g. using Zoom may be more straightforward than using Teams; and 2) People are able to see each others comments, and each other, as they are made so that the interaction and understanding is not lost.	Thank you for your comments. Prior to an online meeting, the Council will provide information explaining how to join and participate in the discussion. The Council will try to use software such as Microsoft Teams or Zoom to allow participants to	

	<p>Where people do make comments, these should be published in full (with names attached where consent is given) and made publicly available - not simply summarised. Finally, while things are still unclear with the virus and restrictions, it is essential that consultation goes back to being done in person and by letter as soon as possible, even if this means sometimes doing it one way and sometimes another over the course of the pandemic. I would really like to see a clear process by which you decide when and how to switch between modes of consultation - and how you effectively communicate it to people who might want to take part in consultations.</p>	engage with each other and members of the Council.
	<p>More letters need to be used because virtually no-one uses online besides business and officials - this doesn't represent the people. The money you save of consultants' fees could be used for letters.</p>	Thank you for your comments. The Council will send letters and leaflets if postal services have not been affected.
	<p>My concern is that if we are all watching an online event and submitting comments through the website, we don't get to hear what other people are saying the way we would in an in-person meeting. To replicate the ability to discuss the consultation with others, I would ask that you publish all the comments received, with the names if people give permission or anonymously if they don't. That would improve transparency at least and give us the opportunity of contacting other people to discuss their comments if we are acquainted with them.</p>	Thank you for your comments. The Council will consider opportunities to allow individuals to share their views with each other.
Other	<p>It seems fair and reasonable, and safe, in the current environment.</p>	Thank you for your comments.
	<p>I assume that as I have received this consultation, I will continue to receive all future communications?</p>	Please email planning.policy@leicester.gov.uk and ask to be added to their consultation database
	<p>I am increasingly concerned that the reactions to the pandemic at national and local government levels lack nuance, balance, perspective, creativity, vision and humanity, so that policies and governance and leadership denialism and ignorance about suicide and Anthropocene (climate/unsustainable economics, etc) generally persist as part of the problem not the solution. Thanks anyway; I know everyone is doing his/her best. Perhaps make way for younger people and a lot more women in future leadership considerations.</p>	Thank you for your comments.

	<p>Scraptoft Parish Council takes into account the limits with the lockdown but we believe it is important that letters are still sent to residents affected by any planning issues as they would not always be aware with any other method of communication.</p>	<p>Thank you for your comments. The Council will send letters if postal services have not been affected.</p>
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