



Eastleigh Borough Local Plan 2016-2036



Consultation Draft Addendum Statement of Community Involvement

August 2020



The adopted Statement of Community Involvement (November 2015) sets out how Eastleigh Borough Council will prepare and consult on planning matters including planning applications and the Local Plan. The current Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has resulted in changes in the delivery of the planning service. This means that the Council is not able to fulfil all the commitments set out in the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI). In accordance with revised Planning Practice Guidance¹, this addendum sets out these changes.

Planning policy

The hearing sessions for the Eastleigh Borough Local Plan were held November 2019 – January 2020. In order to address issues raised at the hearing sessions, the Council will be consulting on modifications to the plan later this year. All documents and information related to the Local Plan are published online and proposed modifications will continue to be published at www.eastleigh.gov.uk/lpexamination. The Council will use the Local Plan Updates and Planning Policy consultation databases to inform people of consultations.

Online consultation software will continue to be used. If restrictions are still in place when the Council next publicises or consults on planning policy documents, the Council will not be able to use the following measures:

- make copies of documents available at libraries, town and parish council offices and the main Council office;
- attend face to face meetings or hold workshops or exhibitions.

The Council will accept paper consultation responses. There may however be some delays in processing paper responses and therefore would request that electronic responses are submitted wherever possible.

These changes apply to the Local Plan, Supplementary Planning Documents and other

planning policy documents. They relate to the requirements set out in SCI paragraphs 4.7, 4.12 - 4.18, 4.21 - 4.22, 5.10, 6.3 and 6.5.

Planning applications

For a number of years the Council has been moving towards making the planning application process fully digital, including assessment of applications, issuing the Council's decision, and other parts of the process. The restrictions during the current Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic means that there are likely to be delays for applications submitted on paper. The Council is still able to process planning applications that are received online via the Planning Portal. Further information to either validate an application that has already been submitted or post-validation drawings; or amendments to planning permissions can also be done through the portal.

However, despite the restrictions brought in as a result of COVID-19, the Council are still able to undertake full publicity of planning applications (neighbour notification letters, site notices, press notice). The Council offices remain closed with plans to open only for limited face to face transactions and payments. No paper copies of planning applications are therefore available for inspection. The full Part 1 and 2 Public Registers remain available online for viewing.

This change relates to the requirements set out in SCI paragraph 4.22.

¹ Guidance on responding to the coronavirus when progressing Local Plan, paragraphs 076 – 078, reference IDs 61-076-201200513, 61-077-201200513 and 61-078-201200513 <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/plan-making#coronavirus>