

Statement of Community Involvement

Places and spaces are woven into our personal lives. Specific localities give form and colour to our origins, our journeys and our imagined destinations. The fabric of locality gives texture to our lives. Good planning can positively shape this fabric and have an impact on people's lives on a daily basis. The policies we write now will deliver homes, jobs, schools, parks, social and community uses and infrastructure over many years to come

We want to involve residents and other stakeholders in the way we shape our places and spaces. We are therefore refreshing our Statement of Community Involvement (SCI), putting residents at the heart of our planning decisions. Consultation on most planning matters is prescribed in planning regulations but we should go further.

The updated SCI will cover three main areas and set out a range of consultation methods that will be used for each:

1. [Planning Policy](#)
2. [Planning Applications](#)
3. [Neighbourhood Planning](#)

Before we write a draft SCI for consultation, we would like to know:

1. How can we engage with residents and other stakeholders on these matters?
2. Please see our suggested approach below, is there anything we have missed?

Planning Policy

Planning policies form the framework against which planning applications are assessed. The main planning policy document is the Local Plan which sets policies to both support new development and protect much cherished uses. We also produce Supplementary Planning Documents, Site specific briefs and Conservation Area Appraisals. There are a number of different techniques we are thinking of using, which are listed below. We are suggesting a combination of these will be used wherever possible.

- Place checks/ walkabouts for 'Places'
- Local workshops
- Leaflets and posters
- Citizen panels
- Community fair
- Open space meetings
- Road shows and public exhibitions
- Surveys and questionnaires
- Open days and drop-in sessions
- Consultation documents
- Focus groups



We already use the methods below:

- Website
- Social Media
- Email
- Planning Policy Database
- Local Press

Planning applications

The Council receives thousands of planning applications each year and consults on them as follows. There is a national requirement to determine planning applications within set timescales – 8 weeks for small-scale planning applications and 13-16 weeks for large-scale development. Consultation needs to take place within this timescale.

This is how we consult on planning applications:

- Press and site notices
- Letters to properties adjoining an application site or wider consultation for large sites
- My RBKC alerts
- Weekly list of applications
- Making the application and all related documents available on-line

Consultation before submitting Planning Application

This is the stage before a planning application is submitted, when the applicant is drawing up their proposal. Even though there is no requirement for applicants to consult, the Council encourages applicants to do so. It is easier for applicant's to take the community's views on board before a scheme is finalised.

This could include:

- Leaflets and posters
- Public consultation events
- Open days or drop-in sessions
- Local workshops
- Surveys and questionnaires
- Website
- Social media

Neighbourhood Planning

Neighbourhood plans are prepared by communities with assistance from the Council. The borough has two neighbourhood plans in its area. New legislation requires us to set out the advice and assistance we will provide for neighbourhood plans in the SCI. Our current SCI contains information regarding neighbourhood planning and will be updated to meet the new legislative requirements.

You can write to us at planningpolicy@rbkc.gov.uk



THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF
KENSINGTON
AND CHELSEA