

Somerset West and Taunton Council

Executive – 24 February 2021

Local Validation Checklist

This matter is the responsibility of Executive Councillor Mike Rigby (Planning)

Report Author: Rebecca Miller, Principal Planning Specialist – Strategic Place Planning

1. Executive Summary / Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 This report seeks approval to adopt the Local Validation Checklist (LVC) following a public consultation. The Local Planning Authority (LPA) is required by the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) to review the LVC every two years.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Approve the LVC subject to a full public consultation and any comments received being fully considered and we necessary amendments made by the Principal Planning Specialist in conjunction with the Portfolio Holder for Planning.

3. Risk Assessment (if appropriate)

- 3.1 Failure to have a LVC in place will mean that when validating planning applications we can only insist on information identified in the National Checklist and any local requirements will not be met. If a planning application is validated without all of the information required due to local requirements, it will need to be requested during the determination process which will delay the decision making process.

4. Background and Full details of the Report

- 4.1 The Local Planning Authority (LPA) is responsible for the determination of planning applications and as part of that process, we have to set out to applicants / agents what information is required for an application to be validated.
- 4.2 Since 2008 local planning authorities have been required to publish a list of information they require to "validate" the planning applications they receive. This validation list forms two components, the National requirements, including the

application form, the fee, certificates etc and secondly, specific local validation requirements known as the "Local List".

- 4.3 Local planning authorities should publish a list of their information requirements for applications for planning permission. These requirements should be kept to the minimum needed to make decisions, and should be reviewed at least every two years. Local planning authorities should only request supporting information that is relevant, necessary and material to the application in question.
- 4.4 In addition and therefore Somerset West and Taunton's current validation requirements have undergone a significant review to reflect changes in planning legislation, policy and guidance.
- 4.5 The main changes that are proposed are as follows:
- Amendments to all sections to make the requirements clearer and updating the references to current legislation, guidance and standing advice
 - All website references have been updated where necessary
 - Addition of new requirements to demonstrate compliance with the Habitat Regulation requirements in the RAMSAR areas.
- 4.6 The information that is required in response to the climate emergency and the questions that are within the interim policy statement on Planning for the Climate Emergency has been included.

5. Links to Corporate Strategy

- 5.1 The Local Validation Checklist does not directly link to the Council's Strategic Priorities. However, it is required under National Planning Policy and therefore is a statutory duty of the Council.

6. Finance / Resource Implications

- 6.1 There are no implications as a result of the Local Validation Checklist.

7. Legal Implications (if any)

- 7.1 There are no implications as a result of the Local Validation Checklist.

8. Climate and Sustainability Implications (if any)

- 8.1 The Local Validation Checklist will have no direct impact on delivering our carbon reduction target (carbon neutral by 2030).

9. Safeguarding and/or Community Safety Implications (if any)

- 9.1 There are no implications as a result of the Local Validation Checklist.

10. Equality and Diversity Implications (if any)

- 10.1 There are no implications as a result of the Local Validation Checklist.

11. Social Value Implications (if any)

- 11.1 There are no implications as a result of the Local Validation Checklist.

12. Partnership Implications (if any)

12.1 There are no implications as a result of the Local Validation Checklist.

13. Health and Wellbeing Implications (if any)

13.1 There are no implications as a result of the Local Validation Checklist.

14. Asset Management Implications (if any)

14.1 There are no implications as a result of the Local Validation Checklist.

15. Data Protection Implications (if any)

15.1 There are no implications as a result of the Local Validation Checklist.

16. Consultation Implications (if any)

16.1 A full public consultation to take place giving 28 days for comments to be submitted. All consultation responses received will be taken into account by the Principal Planning Specialist and the Portfolio Holder for Planning and the LVC will be amended where appropriate prior to being published as a final version.

17. Scrutiny/Executive Comments / Recommendation(s) (if any)

17.1 N/A

18. Democratic Path:

- Scrutiny / Corporate Governance or Audit Committees – No
- Cabinet/Executive – Yes
- Full Council – No

19. Reporting Frequency:

19.1 Only once

List of Appendices

Appendix A	Local Validation Checklist
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