

**NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**LOCAL PLAN COMMITTEE – WEDNESDAY, 20 JUNE 2018**

Title of report	<b>STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT</b>
Contacts	<p>Councillor Trevor Pendleton 01509 569746 <a href="mailto:trevor.pendleton@nwleicestershire.gov.uk">trevor.pendleton@nwleicestershire.gov.uk</a></p> <p>Strategic Director of Place 01530 454555 <a href="mailto:james.arnold@nwleicestershire.gov.uk">james.arnold@nwleicestershire.gov.uk</a></p> <p>Planning Policy Team Manager 01530 454677 <a href="mailto:ian.nelson@nwleicestershire.gov.uk">ian.nelson@nwleicestershire.gov.uk</a></p>
Purpose of report	<p>To advise members that it is considered appropriate to revise the Council’s approved Statement of Community Involvement.</p> <p>To seek approval from members to undertake a consultation on the suggested revisions to the Statement of Community Involvement.</p>
Council Priorities	<p>These are taken from the Council Delivery Plan:</p> <p>Value for Money Business and Jobs Homes and Communities</p>
<p>Implications:</p> <p>Financial/Staff</p> <p>Link to relevant CAT</p> <p>Risk Management</p> <p>Equalities Impact Screening</p> <p>Human Rights</p>	<p>The production of a revised Statement of Community Involvement will be met from within existing staff and financial resources.</p> <p>None</p> <p>A failure to engage effectively and constructively in the preparation of the Local Plan, in determining planning applications and in the neighbourhood planning process could leave the Council vulnerable to challenge. Having an up-to-date Statement of Community Involvement will help to minimise this risk.</p> <p>The Statement of Community Involvement will be subject to an equality impact assessment prior to its formal adoption.</p> <p>None</p>

Transformational Government	Not applicable.
Comments of Head of Paid Service	Report is Satisfactory
Comments of Section 151 Officer	Report is Satisfactory
Comments of Monitoring Officer	Report is Satisfactory
Consultees	None
Background papers	<p>National Planning Policy Framework which can be found at <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2</a></p> <p>The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning)(England) Regulations 2012 which can found at <a href="http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2012/767/contents/made">http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2012/767/contents/made</a></p> <p>The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) Order 2015 which can be found at <a href="https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2015/595/contents/made">https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2015/595/contents/made</a></p> <p>Neighbourhood Planning Act 2017 which can be found at <a href="http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2017/20/contents/enacted">http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2017/20/contents/enacted</a></p>
Recommendations	<p><b>THAT THE LOCAL PLAN COMMITTEE :</b></p> <p><b>(I) NOTES THE NEED TO REVISE THE EXISTING STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT (SCI) FOR THE REASONS SET OUT IN THE REPORT; AND</b></p> <p><b>(II) SUPPORTS THE SUGGESTED REVISIONS TO THE SCI AS SET OUT AT APPENDIX A FOR CONSULTATION PURPOSES</b></p>

## **1.0 BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 The National Planning Policy Frameworks (paragraph 155) states that in the preparation of Local Plans *“Early and meaningful engagement and collaboration with neighbourhoods, local organisations and businesses is essential.”*
- 1.2 Under Section 18 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 North West Leicestershire District Council is required to produce a SCI.
- 1.3 The purpose of the SCI is to set out how the Council will involve the local community, businesses, key organisations and others in preparing its Local Plans, other important planning documents and in processing planning applications. The SCI must also set out how the Council will help neighbourhood plan-making bodies and provide support for neighbourhood planning.

## **2.0 WHY DO WE NEED A NEW SCI**

- 2.1 The current SCI was adopted in January 2015 and a copy of this previous SCI is attached at Appendix A of this report. This was prepared taking into account the minimum standards and requirements of consultation and engagement as set out in legislation and satisfies these statutory requirements. However the Council has some discretion as to who, and how, it consults over and above these requirements, and the SCI sets out an approach to consultation which exceeds the minimum requirements where appropriate whilst having regard to available resources.
- 2.2 The 2015 SCI was prepared in order to address a number of changes in planning legislation, namely that which governs how plans are prepared, the introduction of the Duty to Co-operate pursuant to the Localism Act 2011 and the introduction of Neighbourhood Plans. It also provided an opportunity to take on board developments in technology in how communities can be engaged. A review also is now considered timely in advance of the Local Plan to be produced by the Council.
- 2.3 Since the publication of the current SCI, we have seen the introduction of The Neighbourhood Planning Act 2017 to legislation (Act). The Act is made up of three parts and covers a number of issues, with an intention to strengthen neighbourhood planning. A number of changes that this Act has introduced has implications for the SCI, namely:
  - Section 2 of the Neighbourhood Planning Act requires a local planning authority to notify the parish/town council or neighbourhood forum of relevant planning applications if there is an adopted neighbourhood plan for their area.
  - Section 6 of the Act, amends the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, which requires a local planning authority to prepare a SCI. Within its SCI the Council is now required to set out its policy for discharging its duty to give advice or assistance to qualifying bodies (i.e. parish/town councils or neighbourhood forums) to facilitate neighbourhood planning and neighbourhood development plans and their preparation.
- 2.4 In view of these changes it is necessary to review and amend the SCI to incorporate the information relating to Neighbourhood Planning that is now required by the Act. Furthermore the preparation of a new SCI, at this time, is considered timely to inform the

review of the Local Plan that is in its early stages, and to allow account to be taken of current legislative changes in respect of general data protection requirements pursuant to the General Data Protection Regulation 2016.

### **3.0 NEXT STEPS**

- 3.1 Any changes to the SCI will need to be subject to consultation with any responses being considered by the Council before the revised SCI is adopted.
- 3.2 Attached as Appendix A is a draft SCI which it is suggested should provide the basis for consultation subject to the agreement of this Committee. The suggested revisions to the current SCI are shown as 'track changes'.
- 3.3 As detailed, the main proposed changes set out in Appendix A from the current SCI relate to Neighbourhood Planning in light of recent changes to legislation relating to this matter. It should also be noted that there are a number of other, more minor, changes suggested throughout the SCI. These can be summarised as factual updates and improvements to the readability of the document.
- 3.4 It is proposed that a consultation on the proposed revisions to the SCI be undertaken between 25 June and 19 August 2018. The consultation will be advertised on the Council's website and all individuals and organisations on the Planning Policy database will be contacted directly.
- 3.5 It is anticipated that a summary of the responses received will be reported to the Council's Cabinet before coming back to the Local Plan Committee for approval. It is anticipated that this will be the 7 November 2018 meeting.